

Tying the knot, one couple at a time
B.A.R. readers share news of their historic
weddings in San Francisco City Hall.

page 19

Honeymoon destination
Sunny Palm Springs is
the hot gay tourist spot.

page 14

Brave new gay world
Yaoi comics, and
slash fiction and art.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 8 • 19 February 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Gay marriage in SF!

Judges won't halt weddings

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a victory for both the city and same-sex couples, two judges on Tuesday, February 17 refused to order immediate stays requiring city officials to discontinue the issuance of marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples.

The rulings allowed the couples to continue exchanging vows and marry till at least Friday, when an antigay group will be back in court seeking an immediate injunction ordering the county clerk to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

On Tuesday night, just hours after a judge in one case issued an alternate writ of mandate, a nonbinding order for the mayor and clerk to cease the issuance of the marriage licenses, Mayor Gavin Newsom announced he would ignore the ruling.

"After three court hearings we are still moving forward. It is business as usual at City Hall," Newsom said after briefly conferring with City Attorney Dennis Herrera on how



Chief Deputy City Attorney Theresa Stewart, left, squares off in court Tuesday with Robert Tyler of the Alliance Defense Fund.



Frank King Perez, left, and Andrew Slakey get married Sunday in the City Hall Rotunda as well-wishers look on.

to proceed.

Newsom also dismissed a statement released late Tuesday afternoon by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as mere repetition of comments he made on the campaign trail during last year's recall election.

Schwarzenegger restated his support for all of California's "existing laws that provide domestic partnership benefits and protections." However, he also said that "Californians spoke on the issue of same-sex marriage when they overwhelmingly approved California's law that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. I support that law and encourage San Francisco officials to obey that law. The courts should act quickly to resolve this matter."

In response to a reporter's question about his decision not to obey the law, Newsom asked, "Where is it in the Constitution to lead you to believe I should discriminate against people?"

Herrera said his office was "very gratified" with the day's court proceedings and that "no one should doubt the resolve of our office" in defending Newsom's decision.

As for the ruling by Judge James Warren, a grandson of Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren and the presiding judge in the Diane Whipple dog mauling trial, Newsom said he saw no reason to stop the gay marriages from taking place.

"There is nothing telling me to back off. I feel more resolve now. That is not to say I am sitting here breaking open the champagne bottles," said Newsom.

Though he added, "The path we are on in San Francisco is inevitable. That day is coming. We want to march down that path until we are forced to stop."

Hoping to do just that, both groups op-

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Same-sex weddings make history

by Matthew S. Bajko
and Zak Szymanski

With Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to offer same-sex marriage in the city of San Francisco, history was made last Thursday, February 12, and the reverberations were felt worldwide. At press time, more than 2,600 same-sex couples had tied the knot.

Although the marriages seemed to come out of the blue for many who traveled to the city in order to take part in the ceremonies, they were in fact the result of years of political organizing and weeks of specific strategic planning to make legal same-sex marriages a reality. Still, the ethnic, racial, class, and gender unity — and the collective emotional energy that drew thousands of dedicated couples, well-wishers, and volunteers to City Hall — could never have been predicted.

At 11:10 a.m. last Thursday, lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin married in the office of Assessor Mabel Teng, who presided over the ceremony. Founders of the Daughters of Bilitis, the women became the first gay couple to wed in California.

Shortly thereafter, the couple, who celebrated their 51st anniversary on Valentine's Day, met with Newsom, who handed the two women a copy of the California Constitution as a wedding gift.

"It's all in there," Newsom reportedly told the couple, alluding to not only why he decided to sanction gay marriages but to the laws the two will need to rely on in defending the legality of their union.

"I don't know why I waited 36 days to do this," Newsom told the couple, according to a source.

Newsom was sworn in as mayor on January 8.

The mayor opted not to marry the couple in order to send a statement that gay marriages should be an everyday occurrence and not a media event, his spokesman Peter Ragone told reporters.

"This is the way life should be. When someone comes into City Hall to get married it should be done privately," he said. Nevertheless, the days that followed were anything but private for participating couples, which seemed just fine to most of them.

By 12:16 p.m. the fourth couple readied

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Bay Area Reporter endorsements

Democratic Primary

President: No endorsement
U.S. Senator: Barbara Boxer

State Senate

District 3: Carole Migden

State Assembly

District 6: Joe Nation
District 7: Patricia Wiggins
District 12: Leland Yee
District 13: Mark Leno
District 14: Loni Hancock
District 16: Wilma Chan
District 27 (Santa Cruz): John Laird

Congress

District 1: Mike Thompson
District 6: Lynn Woolsey
District 7: George Miller
District 8: Nancy Pelosi
District 9: Barbara Lee
District 10: Ellen Tauscher
District 12: Tom Lantos
District 13: Pete Stark
District 14: Anna Eshoo

District 15: Mike Honda
District 16: Zoe Lofgren

Judges-SF Superior Court

Vote yes for all Superior Court Judges

SF Democratic County Central Committee

District 12: Andrew Clark, Connie O'Conner, Megan Levitan, Malik Looper, Jane Morrison
District 13: Sue Bierman, David Campos, Ryan Clary, James Cassiol, Robert Haaland, Jason Hinson, Leslie Katz, Esther Lee, Rafael Mandelman, Joe Alioto Veronese, Robert Varni, Scott Wiener

San Francisco Propositions

Vote YES on A, B, D, F, I, J
Vote NO on C, E, G, H

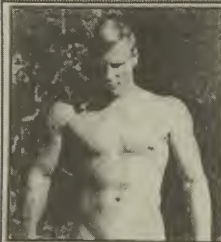
State Propositions

Vote YES on 55, 56, 57, 58

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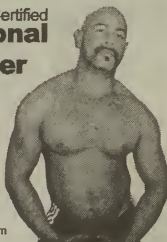
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Burly bear contest winners



Winners at the Bears of San Francisco's 10th annual International Bear Rendezvous contest Sunday, February 15 are all smiles. From left, Juan Viera, International Cub; Bill Howard, International Daddy Bear; Scott Hunter, International Mr. Bear; and Jay Duckworth, International Grizzly Bear.

Duffy hosts Castro traffic safety meetings

by Matthew S. Bajko

After pushing police to issue tickets to jaywalkers at one busy Castro intersection, Supervisor Bevan Duffy is now hosting a series of community meetings to discuss how to make the city's gay neighborhood safer for both pedestrians and drivers.

"Our neighborhoods have many of the city's most confusing, complex, and dangerous intersections," Duffy said. "In my first year, I consistently sought SFPD traffic enforcement and hundreds of citations were written to help calm the traffic and pedestrian environment."

The meetings are sure to touch upon one long pushed idea to close 17th Street at Market and Castro to traffic and turn the intersection into a pedestrian plaza. Duffy also asked the Department of Parking and Traffic's engineers and Livable Streets program to develop a set of ideas to better engineer those intersections.

"These workshops will bring these ideas and traffic data to neighbors and merchants so that we can collaborate on a comprehensive City/Neighborhood pedestrian and traffic safety plan for the Castro," said Duffy.

Neighborhood groups the Merchants of Upper Market & Castro, Eureka Valley Promotion Associa-

tion, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, and Castro Area Planning + Action have all been asked by Duffy for their input, and representatives from the Department of Parking and Traffic and the San Francisco Police Department will attend the meetings.

The first of three special neighborhood workshops will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, February 23 in the Bank of America community meeting room at 501 Castro Street.

Anyone interested in receiving an e-mail or mailed copy of DPT's suggestions, should e-mail Duffy's office at staff.duffy@sfgov.org or call Steve Ferrario at (415) 554-6959. ▼

Weddings impact economy, community

by Zak Szymanski

Receipt totals have not all been tallied, but local businesses and community groups say that San Francisco's same-sex weddings have greatly impacted the economy as well as the LGBT landscape.

Already, the city can count on the revenue generated by more than 2,600 couples' \$82 marriage licenses and \$13 record fees; a total of nearly \$250,000.

But the increased tourism and local celebrations have meant that Castro shops like Happy Trails and Does Your Mother Know have seen their same-sex themed gifts

fly off the shelves.

Some establishments like restaurants and hotels said that the Valentine's Day weekend makes it hard to say whether their business was wedding-related, although Church Street Flowers was able to determine that it had done 15 percent more business than last year's successful Valentine's Day.

"A lot of people coming by said they just received a call from friends at City Hall, and a lot of congratulatory bouquets went out to folks that recently tied the knot," said Church Street Flowers owner Michael Ritz.

Laurie Armstrong of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau said that occupancy num-

bers would not be ready for another couple of months, but "I can tell it was a big weekend," she said.

The same-sex wedding surge has also impacted the LGBT community in other ways. Community United Against Violence usually expects increased hate crimes during times of high LGBT visibility, but those numbers are not yet in and may be influenced by the city's supportive atmosphere. However, in the CUAV-monitored case against a man allegedly responsible for a hate crime attack at the 2002 Drag King contest, the weddings have prompted the defense attorney to seek a delay or plea bargain on the basis that the

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Leaf settles contract dispute

by Matthew S. Bajko

After a six-month stalemate over raises and health benefits, management and staff at New Leaf: Services for Our Community announced this week they had settled on a new contract.

According to staff, members of SEIU Local 790, the union agreed to postpone its fight for partial, employer-paid domestic partner healthcare benefits at this time and instead agreed to pay higher copays for their healthcare and an increase in their workloads.

Under the terms of the contract, which will be renegotiated in June 2005, the union did convince management to agree to raises for the staff and retain current healthcare benefits. Employees will receive 6 percent raises the first year, and 5 percent the second year.

They also agreed to a 5 percent increase in productivity, measured by the amount of clients they see or by the number of groups they

facilitate. According to the union, the concessions amount to only 1 percent of New Leaf's nearly \$3 million annual budget.

While the union argues the salary boost is only a small step in diminishing the gap between New Leaf's pay scale and other comparable nonprofit agencies, the employees referred to the agreement as a "balanced commitment" from management.

"We believe this increase will promote staff retention and help decrease interruptions of services that often occur when staff has had to seek financial security at other nonprofit agencies," wrote Michelanne Baker, a clinician at New Leaf for three years and a union steward, in a letter addressed to the LGBT community. It further states, "We believe this contract is a good start to more adequately caring for New Leaf's workers."

The letter, also signed by New Leaf employees Brad Harms and Michael Toohey, thanks the community for its support as the staff negotiated its new contract with management.

Due to that support, the three argue, "New Leaf's board of directors and management heard the community and were greatly influenced by your outpouring of support," states the letter.

Harms, who said the contract was ratified in December, said a "balanced commitment" had been the union's slogan all along.

"It was about balancing salaries of staff and the services we provide to our clients because there had been such a high turnover rate. The average clinician here stays two years to three years," said Harms.

New Leaf Executive Director

Joseph Neisen is on sabbatical until March 1 and could not be reached for comment. Skip Speer, associate director and interim executive director, did not return calls seeking comment.

Last September staff picketed during their lunch hour in front of the agency's Market Street offices to draw attention to their fight for better pay and medical benefits. Talks over a new contract, which expired June 30, 2003, had broken down in August.

Beginning last May, the union had asked for an 18 percent raise, which would have cost the agency an additional \$140,671 in salaries. Management counter offered with a 3 percent raise, which would have cost \$23,445 more per year.

The union pressed for a 9 percent raise for its 36 members which it contended the agency could afford and would help to retain staff. It also had demanded that the agency pay half of worker's domestic partner benefits, at a cost of another \$70,000 per year in salaries.

In September, Neisen had said that "the sooner they come to the table the sooner they will get their salary increased. The increases won't begin until the contract is signed."

New Leaf is one of the nation's largest counseling centers for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. The agency sees more than 2,500 clients each year and offers substance abuse treatment; individual and group therapy and other general mental health services; HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling; outreach to elders; counseling for children, youth and families; as well as psychiatric assessment and medication services. ▼

Weddings

◀ previous page

city's gay-positive energy will bias the jurors, according to CUA's Tina D'Elia. That case, against Jack Broughton of Walnut Creek, was expected to go to trial this week.

There was also one reported incident of a swastika painted on the front window of All American Boy in the Castro. San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner said that underneath the swastika were the words "Some Pig" and "Rich Bitch." It is not known if the graffiti was related to the same-sex weddings.

Herb Cohn, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, said that while it is in many ways impossible to apply a monetary figure to the benefits of the same-sex weddings, there are other ways to calculate the gains.

"Even if they're not measurable, there are benefits other than increased sales," said Cohn. "Walk out into the Castro and you can see that people are unified. It's wonderful." ▼



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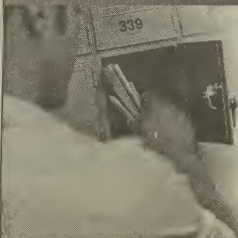
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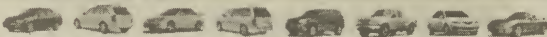
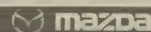
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

A Great Smile Leaves a Lasting Impression

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Immigration benefit

The spirit of New Orleans will permeate the Edge bar as revelers celebrate Mardi Gras weekend at a benefit for Immigration Equality. The free benefit, "Bourbon Street Blues" takes place Saturday, February 21 from 3-7 p.m. at 4149 18th Street at Collingwood in the Castro District.

Local musician Tim Lewis will be featured on keyboards playing jazz and blues while partygoers partake in beverage specials and a barbecue hosted by Firestone Beer.

Immigration Equality was founded in 1994 and is a coalition of immigrants, attorneys, and other activists who address the widespread impact of discriminatory immigration laws on the lives of those in the LGBT community and immigrants who are living with HIV/AIDS. IE offers free legal clinics and support group meetings. For more information, visit www.lgirtf.org. While the benefit is free of charge, donations to IE are encouraged. For more information, call (415) 863-4027.

Funk at ANSWER benefit

International ANSWER, an antiwar organization, will welcome home gay war resister Stephen Funk at a benefit Sunday, February 22 in the Green Room at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. A reception begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 and the program. Former U.S. Represent-

tative Cynthia McKinney (D-Georgia) is also expected to be a guest.

Funk made national headlines last year when he applied for conscientious objector status after going AWOL from his Marine reserve unit. A military jury later convicted him of unauthorized absence and he was sentenced to six months in jail.

The dinner will benefit the March 20 global day of action to end the occupation and bring the troops home from Iraq. Tickets to the dinner are \$100 each. For more information, call (415) 821-6545.

Youth leadership awards

The Santa Cruz County Task Force for GLBTQ Youth invites nominations for the seventh annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards. Nominations will be accepted through March 12. A panel of 10 judges will select six youth, ages 12-18, who have displayed outstanding leadership qualities during the past year. Each awardee will receive a \$500 gift. Nominations are being accepted online at www.diversitycenter.org/qytf or are available throughout Santa Cruz County. Two allies of queer youth and one organizational alliance will be honored along with the other awardees at a gala scheduled for April 25 at the Harbor High School Little Theatre. For more information, call the task force information line at (831) 427-4004. The awards are a project of the Diversity Center and funded in part by the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

Group for gay dads seeks members

An informal group of Bay Area gay and bisexual dads is looking for new members. Robin White, a member, said that the group is for dads who are involved (to a greater or lesser extent) with the biological moms of their children. The group has been meeting for about 18 months, but would like to open up to a few new members who can make a commitment to attend a meeting once a month. The meetings (first Monday of the month) are potlucks where members mix informal check-ins with more serious talk. Interested men should contact White at (415) 437-9118.

LEAGUE scholarships

For the eighth consecutive year, LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation will award its annual academic scholarships and applications are available. Originally, the foundation began as a grassroots organization with the support of LGBT employees at AT&T. Through the years, however, the organization has grown into a national scholarship fund reaching all 50 states.

The scholarship open for application is the Matthew Shepard Memorial Scholarship. For more information and application forms, applicants can visit www.league-att.org/foundation or write LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation, c/o Charles Eader, 1 AT&T Way, Room 4B214, Bedminster, NJ 07921. The deadline to apply is April 19. ▼

Your VOTE is your POWER. Use it on Tuesday, March 2nd.



▼ Mark Leno

A MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMAN MARK LENO:

"Republicans in Sacramento and Washington are working overtime to turn gay marriage into the divisive issue that they believe will assure George Bush's re-election."

"Democrats across the nation are looking to San Francisco Democrats to provide the margin of victory in California for the Democratic presidential nominee and for Senator Barbara Boxer. A strong Democratic County Central Committee can make the difference."

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U.S. Congress, District 12 Tom Lantos
State Senate, District 3 ▼Carole Migden
Assemblymember, District 12 Leland Yee
Assemblymember, District 13 ▼Mark Leno

Democratic County Central Committee,
12th AD, West Side, in ballot order

Phil Ginsburg*
▼ Jay Shaffer*
Meagan Levitan*
▼ Joel Luebke*
Malik Looper*
Dan Kalb*
▼ Connie O'Connor*
Dan Dunnigan*
Tom Hsieh*
José Medina*
Jane Morrison*
Mary Jung*

Democratic County Central Committee,
13th AD, East Side, in ballot order

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▼ Owen Stephens*
▼ Esther Lee*
▼ David Campos*
▼ Leslie Katz*
▼ Scott Wiener*
Sue Bierman*
Julie Brandt*
▼ Catherine Dodd*
▼ Robert Haaland*
▼ Rafael Mandelman*

USE THIS GUIDE WHEN YOU VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 2

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 55 Upgrade public school and college facilities..... YES
Prop 56 End budget gridlock..... YES
Prop 57 Prevent drastic cuts in public healthcare, education*..... YES
Prop 58 Require a balanced State budget*..... YES

REGIONAL BALLOT MEASURE

Prop 2 Fund regional transportation improvements*..... YES

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A Deferred taxation plan..... YES
Prop B Fair retirement benefits for criminal justice employees..... YES
Prop C Civilian jobs in the police department..... No Position
Prop D Equal treatment for Domestic Partners..... YES
Prop E Protect SF citizens from Ashcroft and Patriot Act..... YES
Prop F Labor negotiations with Deputy Sheriffs*..... YES
Prop G Supplemental pay for City employees on military duty..... YES
Prop H Public education funding*..... YES
Prop I The wrong political process to replace diesel buses..... NO
Prop J Incentives to build below-market-rate housing*..... YES

▼ designates LGBT candidates

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- ▼ Graduate of Stanford Univ. and Harvard Law School

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Supervisor Tom Ammiano
BART Director Tom Radulovich
Affordable Housing Alliance
Bernal Heights Democratic Club
Mexican American Political Ass'n



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- ▼ Former President, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, 2002-2003
- ▼ *SF Bay Guardian* "Local Hero," 2001
- ▼ Graduate of UC/Berkeley and UC/Hastings Law School

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San Francisco Labor Council
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**Scott
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- ▼ SF Deputy City Attorney
- ▼ Co-chair, LGBT Community Center Board of Directors
- ▼ Board Member, Human Rights Campaign
- ▼ Past Co-chair, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)
- ▼ Board Member, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
- ▼ Castro resident
- ▼ Graduate of Duke Univ. and Harvard Law School

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Plan C San Francisco
San Francisco Young Democrats

Paid for by David Campos for Central Committee • Scott Wiener for DCCC • Committee to Elect Robert Haaland • Rafael Mandelman for DCCC

Vote for LGBT leadership on Tuesday, March 2.

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Love unleashed

Mayor Gavin Newsom is a hero. His decision last week allowing San Francisco to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples resulted in a joyous explosion of love, and couples from near and far have overwhelmed City Hall in the rush to get married. The historic action, in defiance of state law, was taken because Newsom said "it's the right thing to do." We couldn't agree more. And the images of hundreds of couples lined up around City Hall every day since last Thursday attest to the fact that many of us desperately want to get married and have our marriages officially recognized — we can have both right now in San Francisco. While lawmakers in Massachusetts were bickering last week over proposed constitutional amendments that would ban gay marriage (in defiance of the state's highest court ruling that gays do have the right to marry), Newsom took the courageous act of simply instructing the county clerk to issue marriage licenses.

Assessor Mabel Teng and County Clerk Nancy Alfaro deserve kudos as well, as do City Attorney Dennis Herrera and his staff; all worked hard toward reworking the city forms, substituting "applicant 1" and "applicant 2" for "bride" and "groom." The lawyers developed disclaimer language for the forms, a key factor in the court decisions so far that have failed to stop the weddings. Conservative groups have not yet been successful in obtaining an injunction or a stay, because they cannot show that irreparable harm has come to the thousands of couples who have been married. Once couples make the deci-

sion to marry, they are made well aware of the obstacles they face and are informed that their marriages ultimately might not hold up in court.

Newsom has repeatedly said that the California Constitution provides for equal protection and thus trumps Proposition 22, which defines marriage as between a man

and a woman and was passed by voters in 2000. He has stated that one of the deciding factors in reaching his decision occurred when he attended President Bush's State of the Union speech last month and heard the president's remarks aimed at preventing gays and lesbians from marrying.

In office less than two months, Newsom has shown he is willing to stand up for equality, and has demonstrated a willingness to provide his leadership and inject San Francisco itself into the national debate over gay marriage. He now has a reservoir of goodwill in the LGBT community, including many San Francisco couples who married and said they didn't even vote for him during last year's mayoral race. The Castro is giddy with happy couples streaming in and spending



Same-sex couples line up outside City Hall on Valentine's Day.

money, resulting in an economic boomlet.

Of central importance, however, are the pure feelings of love shown by couple after couple as they are pronounced "spouses for life." Some couples have been together for decades, many have children, and all have waited a long time for this moment.

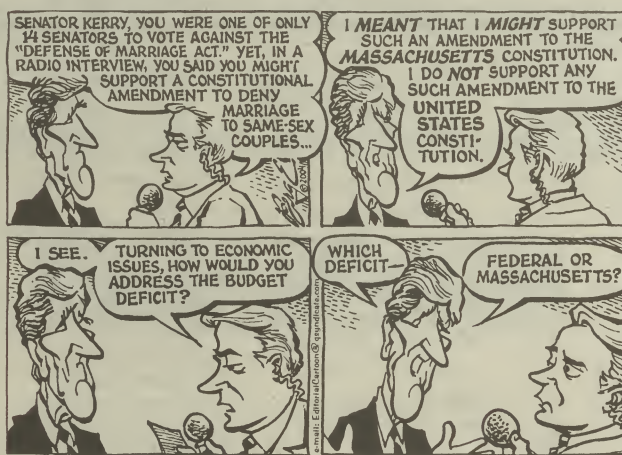
Curiously, there has been deafening silence from Democratic Party leaders throughout the state, with the notable exception, of course, of the gay lawmakers and the few straight ones who openly support gay marriage. Attorney General Bill Lockyer, a Democrat eager to run for governor in 2006, has been silent. The same is true for other heterosexual statewide elected Democrats. They all saw Newsom as a bright star of the party when he took office last month. Why can't they stand up and acknowledge that he's done the right thing? ▼

The presidential race

When Democrats go to the polls in California on March 2 to vote in the presidential primary, we urge them to vote for a candidate. That said, however, we are withholding endorsement for any particular candidate. We do not believe that we have an obligation to rubber-stamp the likely nominee, Senator John Kerry, and we want to send a message to the Democratic Party: do not take the LGBT community for granted.

Specifically, our complaint with Kerry stems from his interview on National Public Radio last week during which he forcefully opposed gay marriage; perhaps partly due to the fact that in Massachusetts, Kerry's home state, the Legislature was about to begin a constitutional convention to attempt adoption of an amendment that would ban same-sex marriage despite the state's highest court twice ruling that gays have the right to be married in the Bay State. We know that President Bush and the Republican Party are attempting to label Kerry as a "Massachusetts liberal" like they did in 1988 when former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis was the nominee; however, Kerry's comments were offensive to us, especially now that same-sex couples are marrying in San Francisco.

On the other hand, we definitely want to see Bush defeated in November, and we are realistic enough to realize that Kerry probably will be the one leading the party after the primaries. We have seen the voter exit polls from other states pointing to Kerry's electability, and we do appreciate the work he has done on behalf of the LGBT community. We admire Kerry's courage in voting against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, the only senator to do so while facing reelection. We also understand that Kerry is in favor of domestic partnership rights and civil unions for same-sex couples, though neither confer all of the rights as civil marriage. A decorated Vietnam veteran, he supports gays being allowed to serve openly in the military. He has a nearly perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign on legislative issues of importance to us. Most importantly, he opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would write discrimination into the constitution by banning same-sex marriage.



While he may be "100 percent" for gay rights, as a campaign aide told us this week, his stance on gay marriage needs to change. We know that no Democratic presidential candidate would risk political suicide by openly supporting same-sex marriage, but Kerry should just say it's a state matter and leave it at that.

Senator John Edwards of North Carolina has taken that approach, and has been able to win enough support to keep his campaign going at least through the March 2 "Super Tuesday" primary states. Gay marriage is certainly not the only issue in the presidential race, nor is it the most pressing one to many — the presidential race likely will hinge on national security and the economy — and Edwards has been able to address the matter in such a way to not give offense. It is the social conservative base of the Republican Party that put gay marriage at the top of the agenda of the so-called culture war in this country, but to most Americans who are not gay the issue is not at the top of their list.

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, a hero to many in the community for signing his state's historic civil union law several years ago, started out as a minor candidate, rose to front-runner status, but ulti-

mately crashed after the Iowa caucuses last month. After a disappointing finish in Wisconsin, Dean announced he was ending his presidential campaign Wednesday morning. Dean is widely credited with restoring integrity to the Democratic Party: he energized the party when it needed it most, but so much so that the party establishment got extremely nervous about his candidacy. There is some evidence that some leaders in the party attempted to undermine his campaign, but, in the end, Dean's massive Internet support could not be translated into votes in the booth when it mattered.

Of the Democratic candidates left in the race as we went to press, the two minor ones — Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich and the Reverend Al Sharpton — support the legal right of gays to marry. While their positions are laudable, neither has a realistic chance to secure the party's nomination.

It's our job to advance the issues that matter to the LGBT community, and that's what we've done for years. While more and more mainstream newspapers have editorialized in support of equal rights for gays and lesbians, we are part of that community, and if we don't stand up for ourselves, no one else will. ▼

LETTERS

Married at last

For 20 years we have been together. Last week we were finally able to marry.

A big "thank you" to Mayor Newsom for taking this stand, to Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng for organizing a massive effort, and especially to the dozens of City Hall workers and community volunteers who came in early, skipped lunches, and worked late so as many couples as possible could marry. You've brought joy and contentment to thousands. Bravo!

Michael Crawford and Tom Hanus
San Francisco

World a more exciting place

How ironic that extremist Muslims and extremist Christians have joined together at last – to denounce same-sex marriage.

Ironic, yet understandable, since both trace their histories back to the Old Testament book of Genesis, that bastion of male supremacy through original sin, which presents us with the ridiculous assertion that woman sprang from the rib of a man! Genesis is a patriarchal revision of the ancient goddess myth, which reveres women for giving life. The apple symbolizes Eve's fertility, and the snake the possibility of human transformation, sorely needed these days.

These biblical lies, myths, and delusions have maintained a stranglehold on consciousness in much of the world for almost 4,000 years. We like to pretend we are "civilized" as our Christian and Muslim armies continue to rape, butcher, and pillage in the names of

God and Allah (and, not to be left out, patriarchal zealots of Israel justify their conquest of Palestine on the grounds it was promised them in the Bible.)

As same-sex couples line up in the hundreds to marry, let us understand the profound challenge they present to historical patriarchy and male supremacy. Bravo for them, but also, beware.

From the burning of faggots and witches in the Middle Ages to the genocide of queers by the Nazis to the killings of Brandon Teena, Matthew Shepard, Gwen Araujo, and the random murder of gay men and transvestites throughout Latin America, there has been a great price to pay for those who bend patriarchally defined gender roles.

Let's make sure history does not repeat itself. The German Parliament was close to passing a law for homosexual rights at the time Hitler came to power. In an uncanny parallel, we have the mad dog fundamentalists of all patriarchal religions foaming at the mouth today to prevent abortion, queer rights, and same-sex marriage in this country and any rights for women at all in some Muslim countries. These folks are armed and extremely dangerous. They act more like totalitarians than small "d" democrats.

This election year, polls show that Democratic primary voters have chosen John Kerry because of "electability," but same-sex marriage throws a huge monkey wrench into the bread and butter campaign the Democratic Party would like to use to fight the Re-

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Mailstrom

A marriage caravan

by Belinda Ryan

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon beneath the authoritative facade of the state Capitol we gathered on the stage in front of supportive clergy and at least 1,000 smiling, happy faces. We are the "Marriage Equality Riders." Little did we know when we signed up for the ride that five of the same-sex couples would be married. I looked around the stage at my fellow riders. These were gay and straight couples. Couples together for 43 years and those together for two years. There were binational same-sex couples and individuals who wanted to be part of this caravan to raise awareness for marriage equality and do their part to support the call for civil rights. We had traveled from far and wide to be part of this outreach effort.

What a wonderful Valentine's Day, to be riding on a bus full of joy, giddiness, and happiness. Here I am, a married woman, and my wife and I were on our honeymoon on a bus with my fellow "love warriors."

The first stop was Woodland, California. We piled out of the bus and picked up our signs. Wendy and I carried our "Just Married" balloons and "support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act" sign. It was like a mini Pride Parade as we marched around a Wal-Mart parking lot, looking at the initially bemused faces of the shoppers. As they read our signs and heard our chants, you could see the realization dawning over them as to who we were. Shoppers waved as we shouted "Happy Valentine's Day" to them.

Back on the bus, and it was onto Willows and another Wal-Mart. More cars were in this parking lot and more shoppers came out of the stores to see us. Children in the back of their parents' pickup put on the "Freedom to Marry" stickers that their parents had taken from us. We were warming up to this parade atmosphere. Wal-Mart workers in their blue vests waved, others stood indifferently, watching us pass. Drivers honked their horns as we paraded around the lot.

As we got on the bus, we were happy that apart from one misplaced finger gesture from a woman driving a SUV we had no adverse reactions. We were getting the hang of it. The next stop would be Red Bluff. We had been warned that we were venturing into a more hostile area. So we decided to sing instead of chant. Who would want to abuse a group of people singing? There were a whole lot more shoppers out and about. As we passed a jewelry shop, a customer ran out and cheered and came up for a sticker. The funny thing was to watch the cars full of people with windows tightly shut, apparently in fear of our queerness. But their eyes darted back and forth as they read our signs and watched those "gay people." People stood outside the shops and more came outside as they heard us coming, bewilderment and curiosity written across their faces.

Then I saw a woman who may have been in her 70s. She closed the trunk of her car and stuck her fingers in a very obvious way, turning her back on us. A teenage girl, possibly her granddaughter, looked over, smiling, and wished us a happy Valentine's Day.

In the parking lot, an angry young man in a white pickup, gun rack at the back, with his girlfriend squirming in her seat, drove aggressively at us, shouting obscenities out the window. But we carried on singing "Love, Sweet Love." We had all been given purple whistles to allow us to call for help if necessary. This incident smacked us back into reality: not everyone is supportive of civil rights for all and some hate queers!

We were back on the bus and off to Redding. We overwhelmed the motel receptionist, whose young children were peaking around the corner as we checked in. We met up with the Redding welcoming group at a local Indian restaurant. The restaurant was filled with loving couples celebrating Valentine's Day.

The wonderful thing was when complete strangers sent over a carafe of red wine for the five newlywed couples. Other people came up to congratulate us before leaving. I guess the clinking of glasses gave us away.

We then went to the Rainbow Lounge, the local LGBT bar. We spoke with a lesbian couple who have been together 12 years. They said they had only heard snatches of news because the local coverage of the events in San Francisco was very poor. We turned on the 11 p.m. news, just in time to see our parking lot interview. Everyone crowded around for the report and cheered when it finished. The bartender gave the five newlywed couples shots of Schnapps.

The next morning we went to breakfast at the local patisserie. The locals were all intrigued and thanked us for sharing our celebration.

We then went to the Pilgrim Church. Marriage Equality had been invited to speak to the congregation for five minutes. We entered the church and felt all eyes of the congregation upon us. I felt a sense of caution and resistance, as we filed into our pews for the service. The reverend asked Molly McKay and Davina Kotulski to explain why marriage was so important. McKay shared her experience of getting married to Kotulski and why it felt so profound. And then Kotulski made a tremendous impact on the congregation when she brought out a jar filled to the top with Valentine candy hearts representing the 1,049 federal rights and 300 state rights that married couples enjoy. Then she showed a jar with 14 state rights that LGBT couples have as domestic partners. She added to this jar an additional 300 candies and the jar was now a third full. This represented the rights under civil unions. The difference between a full jar and a jar only a third full was a dramatic illustration.

I spoke with an older church member whose husband had died two years earlier after 47 years of marriage. I mentioned that the first lesbian couple to get married in San Francisco was Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, who have been together for 51 years. And that Lyon "made an honest woman out of Del at the age of 83 years." And the woman said, "Now I get it." The light bulb had gone off as to why marriage is so important. ▼

Belinda Ryan is a Bay Area resident.

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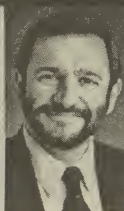
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Mailstrom

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publicans. The door has been opened, married queers have escaped, and the world just became a more exciting place.

Charlie Hinton
San Francisco

Matt Foreman responds

Your article concerning my remarks at a San Francisco State University forum held on January 22, misstated what I said and took my remarks out of context ["NGLTF's E.D. predicts gays will lose marriage fight," January 29].

Contrary to your headline, I never said "gays will lose marriage fight." If I thought that, the task force would not be working so hard to win.

In response to a question about how "reforms such as that of same-sex unions affect the mental health of the LGBT community," I said that how we fight is going to have a very significant impact on the way in which our community sees itself. I did say there was a strong possibility that we will lose this fight, but that I hoped not. And I added, "Even if we lose, people are going to be able to say, 'You know what, we fought, we fought hard and we fought proud.'"

Your article said I called "the fight for gay marriage 'a catastrophe.'" What I did say was, "Contrary to popular belief, the attempt to win the freedom to marry has been nothing less than a legislative catastrophe, unparalleled in recent American history: over the last 10 years 37 states and the federal government passed laws or amended their constitutions - California being one of them - to prohibit the recognition of same sex marriage, to strip a specific class of people a fundamental right that, incidentally, we never even had."

Yes, I did say we are "under siege" and we are. I prefaced that by saying, "And now, as highlighted in the State of the Union address, we face a determined and growing effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to enshrine in our nation's most sacred document our second-class citizenship. And this new wave of attack is not only at the federal level: as we sit here today, there are real efforts in 15 states to amend their constitutions or put up anti-marriage ballot initiatives or pass 'Super DOMAs,' which we expect Ohio to do in the next few days. We are under siege, plain and simple."

I don't believe in sugarcoating hard political reality. The simple fact is that the venom, money, and organizing capacity of our enemies far exceeds our own. LGBT Californians know this evil power all too well: just four years ago, antimarriage Proposition 22 carried by a landslide 61 percent to 39 percent margin.

That said, we must fight - for our dignity, for those who come after us, and to win. I urge all LGBT people, our family, and our friends to join in the struggle, today. As I said at San Francisco State, "Right is on our side and we'll ultimately prevail."

Matt Foreman, Executive Director
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Washington, D.C.

Just another politician

I was shocked, disgusted and appalled to read about John Kerry's support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage ["Kerry offers support for Massachusetts marriage ban," February 12].

I have been a Howard Dean supporter for months, but with Kerry's recent surge had been planning to enthusiastically campaign for Kerry after he wins the nomination. After all, our priority in the LGBT community must be to defeat George W. Bush in November.

But John Kerry's comments made me re-think my plans, as it showed that he is just another politician who will get bullied by the right wing, and pathetically pander to public whims and the biased media.

I don't expect our presidential nominee to come out in support of gay marriage. That would be political suicide. But I also think we should demand that our nominee does not cave into the right, and let Bush and his cohorts drive the course of debate.

The average swing voter who will decide this election does not support gay marriage - but polls have also shown that a majority of Americans oppose a constitutional amendment. In other words, they don't like gay marriage - but they don't feel so strongly about it that they would change the Constitution.

We don't want to replace Bush with Bush-lite. We need a president who will push the envelope and sympathize with our cause.

Paul Hogarth
Berkeley, California

Kucinich supports LGBT marriage

The B.A.R.'s February 12 editorial expresses surprise at John Kerry's "critical" non-support of our rights at this historical time. Yet, Democratic candi-

date Dennis Kucinich supports - unconditionally - the right of LGBT people to marry. So, the surprise to me is the lack of coverage of the Kucinich campaign, not only in our gay press, but in all the media.

Kucinich goes further than supporting civil unions for same-sex couples at the state level; he believes that, much like the civil rights legislation of the 1960s, federal law should protect civil unions, and that no state has a right to abridge basic rights to privacy. He would support the introduction of federal civil union legislation if the courts do not recognize this intrinsic right.

Go to his Web site and read of Kucinich's most progressive support of the LGBT community (www.kucinich.us/issues/).

Join me, a lesbian activist of 35 years and more to come, and vote for Dennis Kucinich in the upcoming California Democratic Primary. Make sure we as LGBT people are represented in the upcoming Democratic race for president by a person who believes in our rights and is not afraid to stand up and speak out!

Patricia Jackson
San Francisco

Outdated fears on gay marriage

Just what does it mean when people say that gays will destroy the institution of marriage? Will the people already allowed to enjoy the rights and responsibilities of this supposed sacred matrimony go from an over 50 percent divorce rate, to just plain choosing not to get married ever again? Will all of society give up marrying each other? And will marriage drop down to only gay people choosing to get married? Will straight people suddenly go, "Oh icky, gay people are marrying! Screw marriage. From now on we're going to register as domestic partners, and instead of a federally recognized marriage we'll have a civil union." Will straights suddenly abandon marriage because gays are allowed in? Even more intriguingly, will gays and straights simply trade institutions? Is this what people mean when they say inclusion will destroy marriage?

If marriage is to be tried and true, so sacred, so much of a strong institution that has stood the test of centuries, how can the inclusion of a minority of people destroy the entire fabric of society? How can homosexuals really bring our entire society to a horrible doom and closure as I heard yet another person say recently in the media? Isn't our fabric much stronger than the supposed negative results of inclusion? Hmmm ... maybe it's the Constitution itself that needs to be replaced. Maybe it's the United States Constitution with its promise to protect everyone's rights, even those of the minority, from the tyranny of the majority, just maybe that document is what is leading us to the brink of extinction as marrying people, and furthermore, to the destruction of humankind itself.

Gee, looking back, I don't see that our golf clubs all shut down because we allowed non-whites into them. I don't see that our neighborhoods all rushed out of America because we allowed all races to move into them. And I never saw the destruction of marriage when we allowed interracial couples to marry.

Now, to codify discrimination into any constitution, state or federal, is plain wrong. To be fearful of other people being allowed into the clubhouse, i.e. gay people into marriage, is simply outdated, and discrimination, not merely some stupid act of a minority of "activist" Supreme Court justices imposing their will nilly will upon the rest of America as our president would have us believe.

But, back to marriage directly: Why don't straight people just trade places with gays and settle for less than equal rights. Yes, as I mentioned above, straights can choose to have civil unions and register as domestic partners.

There's nothing stopping straights from doing so. There's nothing that says you have to be a man and a man, or a woman and a woman to register or have less than marriage. So, go do it. Abandon marriage! You don't need full rights and responsibilities. Sure, why not live as second-class citizens as it appears the majority of America wishes the minority to be subjugated to. Does the oppressor ever stand up and say, "Oh, gee whiz. I'm oppressing the minority?" No. Those let into the clubhouse have to hear awfully loud knocking at the door, before the excluded are allowed in. Sometimes those knocking have to be accompanied by new state and federal laws which outlaw "traditional" discrimination. And more frighteningly, sometimes those knocking must knock the door right off its hinges to be allowed in.

Walk in gay's shoes for your lifetime, and see how you are excluded from an institution and then you'll see why exclusionary, and just how wrong, and simply just how preposterous and utterly fear-based this not allowing gays into marriage thing really is. There's someone at the door. Will someone please let them in?

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POLITICS

Mayor Newsom: It was the right thing to do

by Wayne Friday

Mayor Gavin Newsom insists that his now history-making decision to instruct the county clerk, after having consulted with her boss, Assessor Mabel Teng, to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, was simply "the right thing to do."

"This is simply about equal treatment," the mayor said, appearing on Sunday on the KRON-TV *Morning News Hour*. The mayor, interviewed by Phil Matier, turned to the reporter and asked "Why should you and I, Phil, have special privileges than other Californians?" Adding, "Why should my wife Kimberly and myself, who are in love, have different and special privileges than any other two people who are in love and committed – it's simply about equal treatment."

When Newsom decided last week that it was "the right thing to do" to defy California law (that defines marriage as being strictly between a man and a woman) he and his aides pointed out that the California Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens, and that to deny marriage licenses to gays and lesbians would clearly violate their rights to equal protection under that constitution.

Anyone who saw Newsom with Matier on KRON-TV last Sunday morning could maybe question the wisdom in his decision, but they certainly couldn't question his sincerity. Even news anchor Marty Gonzalez remarked to his co-anchor, Isabel Duran, after the mayoral interview, "I get the feeling we just heard from the mayor's heart in that conversation he had with Phil."

Regardless of what the courts have done this week on this issue, under the guidance of Newsom, San Francisco has once again opened a new chapter in its history. Was the new mayor doing the smartest thing politically by deciding that his city would become the first to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples? Many of his closest friends and advisers would likely argue that he was not. I've never discussed Newsom's long-time political plans with him, but few doubt that he is a rising star in the Democratic Party with an eye on political office much higher than that of San Francisco mayor. It was reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Los Angeles Times* that even openly gay Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank (D) advised the mayor that now "wasn't the right time" and told him to drop the idea.

From a strictly political standpoint, most would likely say that it was, at best, a very risky move for the young new mayor to take. Still, some of those close to Newsom tell me that he deeply feels that he did the right thing and for that I applaud him. Regardless of what the courts eventually do and what those hundreds of certificates mean to the world at large, they are important to those who now hold them, and Gavin Newsom has shown he is a champion of gay rights and a true friend of our community. Well done, Mr. Mayor.



Mayor Gavin Newsom at the City Hall reception Friday night.

Politics and people

Last Sunday's debate among the remaining Democratic presidential candidates from Milwaukee's Marquette University was probably one of the best I've seen so far. Instead of attacking each other, the five candidates all took on the one man we need to rid Washington of – President George W.

Bush. By the time this column hits the streets today, the Democratic field might have narrowed further – but all of those on that Milwaukee stage Sunday – Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, North Carolina Senator

John Edwards, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and the Reverend Al Sharpton – came off looking better than the liar we have now in the White House. If it's amusing one-liners, Sharpton has it over the others. Though Dean's candidacy is fading fast, he still was the one who seems to have been the conscious of the Democratic Party. Kucinich seems to have the right answer on all the issues that interest me (and, like Sharpton, is the only one to come out in total favor of gay marriage) but Kucinich, a former Cleveland mayor, is running for re-election to his Ohio House seat and will carry a strong voice in any future Democratic administration. Realistically, it appears that as the March 2 California "Super Tuesday" primary approaches, it is Kerry and Edwards who are left standing. Either Edwards or Kerry would be a far superior president than suffering through another four years of Bush, but since most national polls now show Kerry actually having the best chance of defeating Bush in November, I'm casting my vote on March 2 for him.

Indeed, many are quietly thinking of who would make a good Democratic running mate for the Massachusetts senator. Kerry and Edwards? Kerry and Indiana Senator Evan Bayh? Kerry and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson? There has even been some talk this week in Washington, D.C. of a possible Kerry-Feinstein (as in California Senator Dianne Feinstein) ticket – that's a ticket that would send George Dubya back to Texas. The *Bay Area Reporter* is making its recommendations today elsewhere in the paper. Consider them and vote as you please, but please vote on March 2.

And yes, I'm voting for Propositions 57 and 58 (otherwise the state will all but close down, in-

cluding the schools and San Francisco General Hospital) but am I the only one already growing tired of those annoying kiss-up TV ads featuring Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Democratic Controller Steve Westly? Incidentally, both Propositions 57 and 58 are picking up important endorsements and their passage on March 2 now appears likely. The same holds for Proposition 56, which would lower the number of legislators needed to pass the state budget, but would withhold pay for lawmakers for each day the budget is late.

Gay rights have always been a magnet at San Francisco's City Hall for hate calls, and this past week has certainly been no exception. Particularly, Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammi-ano, as well as Mayor Newsom's office, reported a dramatic increase in such calls. For many staffers new in the mayor's office, the level of viciousness, much of it appearing to come from organized religious groups, has been a brutal awakening at how much hatred still exists in this world.

Most of the official city family has lined up behind Mayor Newsom's call for the city clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples – thanks particularly to Assessor Mabel Teng, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, District Attorney Kamala Harris, Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, and the other supes who are on our side. However, while he is certainly entitled to his opinion, it appears that Supervisor Tony Hall (District 7) who opposes same-sex marriages, couldn't keep his feelings to himself. *Chronicle* reporter Rachel Gordon reports that when Hall was asked what he thought about the mayor's idea (or maybe what he thinks about the mayor) Hall snapped: "I'm sure if it's the popular, politically correct thing to do, then he's going to do it."

And finally, a last word on the gay marriages that have taken place this past week at City Hall. My friend and editor Cynthia Laird and her partner, Vicky Kolakowski, are two of those who made that commitment and I'd like to offer them all the best for a true lifetime of happiness. Cynthia, probably the best editor who has protected my column over the past 25 years, is a treasure at the B.A.R., a rock for all of us. To Cynthia and Vicky – congratulations, all the best for a happy life, and go buy a bottle of champagne on me.

Otherwise, let me wish a belated Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. ▼



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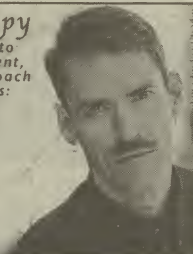
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'V' is for transgender

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

As I write this, I am looking at a stack of flyers on my desk, advertising the Los Angeles production of *The Vagina Monologues* this coming weekend. Behind these are three copies of the book, and to the left of these, a copy of the script.

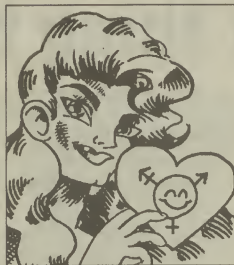
Indeed, my office is littered with items tied to this production right now, from the aforementioned scripts and such to drafts of a keepsake booklet partially designed by myself just for this one-night show.

I'm performing in this production, the first time I've been in a play of any nature since grade school, taking days to hone a self-written piece just for this production. There are also words of mine in a second piece in the show: one crafted by the author of *The Vagina Monologues*, Eve Ensler.

Why put this much effort into an event that isn't local to me — requiring me to brave the wilds of a day-long trek down Interstate 5 — and for which all the time and effort I'm putting into it will not translate into any financial compensation? Simple: this event serves to strengthen both the communities of women and transgenders, and helps both learn where our commonalities lie. That alone is worth far more than the few days I have spent involved in this production.

Let me provide some history. This production — the first with a cast solely of transgender women — is part of the larger "V-Day" movement, designed to highlight the issue of violence against women and girls. By creating a cast of transgender people and featuring some narratives specific to the experiences of transgender women and girls, it should show that the experiences of women can be truly universal.

There are those who might not feel that the issue of antitransgender violence has a place within an event devoted to stopping violence against women and girls. There are many who would tell you that we do not belong, as



Christine Smith

we're something different from other women.

This is part of the history of the transgender community, from decades old debates presented in the 1979 book *The Transsexual Empire* to still-raging battles over the exclusionary practices of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival and San Francisco's own 100 Lesbians and Our Friends organization.

These are groups that would want you to believe that transgender people — most often transgender women — are

some different beast, even a dark interloper trying to take over the last thing that is owned by non-transwomen: their very bodies.

I myself am a male to female, and I tell you this: I'm not all that different from a non-transgendered female. I may have had a lot more to do to gain sexual characteristics that other women might take for granted. Nevertheless, I ended up with a body very similar to other women. It's hardly something I've tried to take away from anyone else. Rather, it's something I hold dear.

My kinship is far more than just the physical: I've seen the same examples of discrimination and prejudice as any other. I've learned what it's like to do more work for substantially less pay, and I've discovered just how quickly my intelligence can be denied, because I'm "just some dumb girl."

I can just as easily be objectified and sexualized, and assumed that my only worth might lie in how much I can satisfy the opposite sex. Sometimes more so, given the subculture of the "tranny

chaser."

I can hardly look at any of these as things one would do in order to somehow dominate women's lives by transitioning from one to the other. Never mind that such a concept seems laughable when I think of the pain and anguish that I and others went through in order to get to a place where we can face discrimination in not one but likely two new ways.

There's one other place where we are similar: the violence we may face. Transgenders can find themselves to be just as big a target as any other, and you'll find a lot of the same motivations and biases that lead to violence against all women at play in antitransgender violence.

I can be raped and beaten by men who seem to think it's perfectly acceptable behavior, and a few of those same men might get away with it thanks to those who may claim that I was somehow "asking for it." I can even be killed with the same justifications regardless of it being my transgender status or my womanhood that motivated the murderer.

That is the intersection of this V-Day event in Los Angeles, right at the corner of transgender and woman. It is there that you'll discover we truly aren't that different after all. I may have come at my womanhood through very dissimilar means than most others, and I may have a history that will always contain traces of a childhood atypical of most of my female peers, but I still live in the same world — and face the same troubles — as many other women in this world.

This is why I have dedicated so much of my life to antitransgender violence, and why I am honored to be a part of this campaign to stop violence against women and girls. I may be a small part of this whole thing, but if enough help out, both transgender and non-transgender women — and all transgender people — will be served. ▼

Gwen Smith apologizes for the femme-centricity of this piece, and has not forgotten that there is a wider world out there. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Judges

◀ page 1

posed to the gay marriages filed appeals with the First Circuit Court of Appeals asking for an immediate injunction to be issued. Lawyers for Prop. 22 Legal Defense and Education fund pledged late Tuesday to seek intervention by the appeals court Wednesday if gay marriages continued to take place at City Hall. Despite failing to obtain an immediate injunction, the attorneys for the group did not see the judge's ruling as a defeat.

"We are very happy with the cease and desist order. The mayor is in violation of the law," said Robert Tyler, counsel for the Prop. 22 group. "This is a very positive step. The judge made a decision there is a violation of the law."

The Campaign for California Families filed an appeal Tuesday afternoon after Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay ruled the organization had not given proper notice for the case to proceed that day.

Before the case of Randy Thomason and Campaign for California Families v. Gavin Newsom

and Nancy Alfaro began, Quidachay advised the attorneys on both sides that he believed proper notice had not been given to the city about the case.

A furious Thomason, who brought his own bodyguards with him to the courthouse, said at a news conference later in the day that what the city is doing is a threat to the country's system of government.

"The rule of law in California is being jerked around and not obeyed. We have local politicians who are trampling the rule of law by saying they are king, they are God," said Thomason. "I can read the rule of law as well as these judges. Why is it not being upheld? Where is the guts to uphold the law they said they would uphold?"

Not only did he lash out at the judges and city officials, but Thomason also ridiculed state Attorney General Bill Lockyer whom he said, "was nowhere to be found. He is derelict of the law."

Thomason warned the city could be fined \$1,000 for each marriage license it has issued and estimated the city could stand to lose upwards of a quarter million

dollars. Benjamin Bull, chief counsel for the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund, which is part of the Prop. 22 group's case, said his client is also seeking compensation for attorney fees from the city.

"That amount is going up like an elevator," said Bull, adding the figure would be in the tens of thousands of dollars. "It is in the six figures."

Richard Ackerman, legal counsel for Thomason's CCF, said he was confident he would prevail in the end. By issuing the licenses to gay couples, Ackerman said his own marriage to his wife was being redefined.

"Keeping the status quo is for protecting the very security of our nation," said Ackerman, without explaining how gay marriages threaten national security.

Tyler said same-sex couples should be aware that their marriage licenses "aren't worth the paper they are printed on."

Shannon Minter, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights which is representing several gay couples, including Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the first

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COMMENTARY

Time to draw the line

by Dale Carpenter

Two starkly different but possible futures are emerging. One of them would foreclose gay marriage for the lifetime of any person old enough to read this, erecting barrier after barrier to the recognition of gay couples. The other would mean a long, but ultimately successful, movement for full marriage rights. This is the fight of our lives and our elected officials must know that.

In the worst-case scenario, gay marriages in Massachusetts will fuel a backlash that results in double and triple obstacles for us. Already, 38 states have enacted laws banning gay marriages and refusing to recognize such marriages from other states. Facing the specter of gay marriages in Massachusetts, under this scenario, many states will be stampeded into amending their own state constitutions.

Far worse, Congress would vote to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriages, and perhaps even civil unions and domestic partnerships to boot. That will be followed by ratification efforts in state after state. The debate over ratification will be vicious, marked by hateful stereotypes of gays as promiscuous child molesters bent on destroying everything good in American life. In this supercharged atmosphere, hate crimes go up. Other civil rights measures stall. Worst of all, the amendment is ratified. Since only 13 states may block any repeal of this amendment – and we know where they are – the possibility of gay marriage is ended for our lifetimes.

But that is only one possible future. Here's another.

In the best-case scenario, Massachusetts gay marriages demonstrate that same-sex marriage is no threat to anyone. Straight married couples get on with their lives, unaffected. Children still have mothers and fathers. There is no plague of locusts upon the land. Massachusetts accordingly rejects a state constitutional amendment, either because the Legislature can't muster the votes for a ban or because the people of Massachusetts

vote it down. Either way, the people will have spoken. Gay marriages in that state will have a democratic legitimacy no court can confer. For the first time, gay marriage will have survived its most crucial test, the one in the court of democratic politics.

The experience of Massachusetts will embolden other states to start trying gay marriages, or at least civil unions followed quickly by marriage. State legislators will realize they don't commit political suicide by voting for it. The momentum gathers. Still no locusts.

At the federal level, under the best-case scenario, Democrats find their backbone on this issue after all the support we've given them over the years and vote to reject a constitutional amendment.

A few principled Republicans, loathe to write what Andrew Sullivan has called "graffiti" on the Constitution, and truly committed to federalism, join the Democrats. State experimentation with gay marriage, free of congressional meddling and federal court fiat, is allowed to proceed.

The debate over the amendment and over state legislative action, and the existence of actual gay marriages, force people to think for the first time about why we would deny a loving, committed couple a marriage license. Many Americans can't come up with a good reason. Religious conservative groups, like those running to courts right now to stop people from marrying in San Francisco, look like the Grinch Who Stole Matrimony. Gay marriage, perhaps in our lifetime, is a reality across much of the country.

Neither of these scenarios is foregone. The future is ours to make. The people of this country are basically decent and fair. They do not like to shut people out for no good reason. But they also do not like to be rushed into, or to be forced into, a change they rightly regard as having fundamental significance. Almost every time the people have had time to listen to our pleas, to consider the consequences, and to make a deliberative choice, equality has won.

But above all, winning the right future will mean making it plain

that stopping an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the issue upon which every politician will henceforth be judged, Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative. There can be no "pass" given to any elected official on this issue, no matter how supportive he or she has been in the past. They must know we will always remember where they stood on this.

Gay Democrats must make it crystal clear to Democrats and to our civil rights "allies" among progressive groups that we consider this proposed constitutional amendment the fight of our lives. No votes, no money, no time, should be given to any Democrat who supports a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, no matter how many times they've sponsored an employment non-discrimination bill or a hate crimes law.

Gay Republicans must stand up, too. We have been working to build some small voice in the GOP for just this moment. We must be crystal clear that no votes, no money, no time, will be given to any Republican who supports a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, no matter how many times they've cut taxes or made war on Islamo-fascism. This means you, too, George W. Bush.

On this issue, unlike almost every other issue, no quarter can be given. They are messing with our families now. This fight is for keeps. We must win it. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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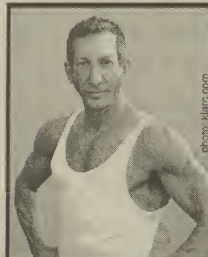
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Gay marriages

◀ page 1

to exchange vows as the media gathered inside Teng's office. Wearing black pantsuits, Margo McShane and Alexandria D'A-mario pledged their love to one another and said "I do."

With that, Teng declared the two joined in matrimony and said, "I now pronounce you spouses for life."

"We are so thrilled for you," said a smiling Teng, who toasted the couple with glasses of apple juice.

The couple, who live in Napa, have wanted to marry for some time, said McShane, 34, a marketing director. Domestic partners for two and a half years, the women said they plan on having another, more private ceremony with family and friends.

"I would marry her 100 times if I have to because it is a right," said 38-year-old D'A-mario, a psychotherapist who is four months pregnant with twins.

Sarah Conner and Gillian Smith, partners for four years, witnessed the wedding only moments after being the third couple to exchange vows.

Conner, an employee at the California Pacific Medical Center Foundation, and Smith, a non-profit worker, said a friend of theirs with the American Civil Liberties Union had called them the night before to ask them if they would marry.

The Oakland couple, domestic partners for the last three years, had planned on going to Canada in April to wed. "When this opportunity came up we jumped at it," said Conner, who called her father



Paula Williamson and Nikkole Gadsden are married in City Hall by Assessor Mabel Teng Friday, February 13.

to inform him of the change in plans Wednesday night. "He wished he could be here."

"We will have a reception here for friends," said Smith. "We are still going to go to Canada."

Observing the next couple exchange vows, Smith said, "It will never get old to watch."

Almost as soon as San Francisco began performing gay marriages, conservative groups were planning to appear in court to seek an injunction. Brilliantly executed on a state holiday, the same-sex marriages were able to avoid legal action on Thursday, but the Campaign for California Families and the Alliance Defense Fund announced that they would file lawsuits on Friday in San Francisco Superior Court.

As news of the weddings – and impending court cases to stop them – spread, same-sex couples from the Bay Area and beyond descended upon City Hall for a chance to wed. By Friday morning, gay couples snaked through the doors of City Hall and lined up along the sidewalk.

Several elected officials performed same-sex marriages throughout the week – including Assessor Teng; Supervisors Chris Daly, Bevan Dufty, and Fiona Ma; Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco); school board member Heather Hiles; and former Assemblywoman and current Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden – but Friday's long line prompted many other city workers and others to be deputized on the spot in order to marry as many couples as possible.

Friday's marriages took place six to nine at a time along the Rotunda steps during the day.

Simon Pitchford, 42, and his partner of 15 years Jim Munson, 44, arrived at 7:30 a.m. and waited about 90 minutes to receive a marriage license.

Munson, a university administrator, said the couple decided just six months ago to become domestic partners and said of getting married, "It's a big deal."

"A long time ago we had a discussion where we said we will never get married," said Pitchford, who works in biotech.

After learning about the gay weddings through an Internet story, Munson said, "We decided then and there to do it as soon as we could."

"I never thought today would happen. I thought it would happen but that it would take about 10 years," he added.

The two never thought of going to Canada or Massachusetts this spring to wed, because "We wanted to do it in the city we live in and love," said Pitchford.

As for the legal battle brewing over their union, Munson said, "We know our marriage is valid."

"I think 15 and a half years proves that," added Pitchford.

School kids & weddings

As two dozen Catholic school kids listened to a docent describe the architectural style of City Hall's Rotunda, Terrance Alan, chair of the city's Entertainment Commission, pledged his love and commitment to Cameron Eng, his partner of seven years.

"It's a historic moment probably closed to us in the foreseeable future," said Alan, 51, a club promoter. "If we had been a hetero couple this would have happened a long time ago."

As he exchanged vows with Alan, Eng said he was thinking not only how much he loved his partner, but also "how great a move this is. I am glad they finally got around to it."

"Straight people are getting the gonads the gay community has had long ago," Alan said of the mayor and city officials willing to buck current laws prohibiting gay marriage.

Other schools purposely brought their classrooms on field trips to City Hall to witness history and learn about diversity; students from El Dorado Elementary School were treated first-hand to a gay wedding, followed by a civics lesson from Jim Illig, who officiated the ceremony.

"Until yesterday, they couldn't do this," Illig explained to the students as they broke into applause for the married couple. "That's why this is so important."

Also on Friday, Gustavo Serina married his partner of 36 years, Robert Melbourne. Serina, an early supporter of Newsom's campaign for mayor, said he was not surprised by the mayor's taking a stand for gay marriage, although he added, "I didn't know he would do this."

The two men, who have been registered domestic partners for 10 years, exchanged the same rings they had bought for each other in Brazil on their 25th anniversary.

"I am happy to see gays and lesbians live an honest life," said Melbourne, 80, a retired construction worker.

Fighting back tears, he recalled that when he was growing up, most gay people remained in the closet and could not leave the closet behind. Instead, he said "you were expected to get married. So many of my generation married and disappointed themselves and the wives they married."

Former Texans Michael Crawford, 40, and Tom Hanus, 31, waited in line Friday for their chance to wed after being together 20 years. The two had a wedding ceremony at the MCC

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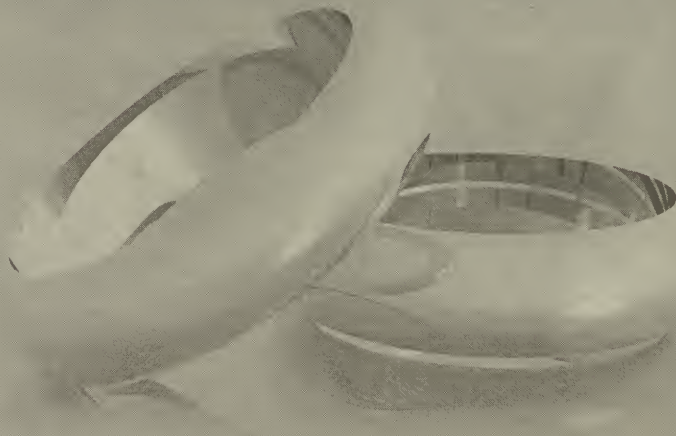
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Mayor Gavin Newsom

Assessor Mabel Teng

City Attorney Dennis Herrera

City Hall Employees

Community Volunteers

Courageous couples, families and children

GLBT civil rights organizations from around
the city, the state, and across the nation

B.A.R. travel special, part one

Palm Springs: Gay vacation destination

by Ed Walsh

The activity on the sidewalk flustered Joni's otherwise unflappable drill sergeant demeanor. As a Palm Springs tour bus guide for Celebrity Tours, and with an encyclopedic knowledge of the desert city, it was pretty hard to take Joni (who didn't provide her last name) off her mark. But the sight of two men passionately kissing on the street did it.

"I got distracted by those two guys walking," she told the busload of mostly senior tourists as the bus cruised along. "But I don't think they were walking. They should take that to a room somewhere," she added with a laugh. Most of the crowd laughed back, seemingly enjoying the impromptu Palm Springs show.

The bus cruised past many of the old celebrity homes that first put Palm Springs on the map as a celebrity getaway more than 60 years ago but the sight of the two men was an appropriate reminder for what has become one of Palm Springs' biggest revenue generators now: gay tourism.

At last count, the city of 47,000 people boasts 37 gay resorts, more than any other city. And that's not including the dozens of nightclubs, restaurants, and small businesses that cater to gays and lesbians. About a third of the city is estimated to be gay, and with last November's election, for the first



Palm Springs, with Mt. San Jacinto in the background, is a popular gay tourist destination.

time the city has an openly gay mayor, Ron Oden, and a gay majority on the city council.

Most of the desert city's gay resorts are in one of three neighborhoods. The biggest cluster of gay resorts is in the area known as Warm Sands, named after the main street in area. It's about a half mile east of downtown. Just south of Warm Sands, along San Lorenzo Road, is home to another group of resorts. The hotels there boast the best views of Mt. San Jacinto. A third concentration of gay resorts is just north of downtown.

the Old Las Palmas and Movie Colony neighborhood. This area is ideal for shoppers because of its proximity to a number of small shops and antique dealers.

What might be best described as the Castro Street of Palm Springs is a one-block stretch of Arenas Road, just off South Indian Canyon Drive, in downtown. It features a number of bars, restaurants, and shops. You'll find the popular clubs Hunter's, Badlands, and Streetbar there.

One of the beauties of Palm

Springs is that everything is pretty close to everything else and there are virtually no traffic jams. The airport is just three miles from downtown. Most of the gay resorts are a short drive from the city center. For those who prefer not to drive, the city also has public transit in the form of the Sunbus or you can cab it or rent a bike. One of the two resorts where I stayed, the Triangle Inn, provides free bikes to its guests.

The city has two resorts that cater to lesbians and the other 35 to gay men. The lesbian resorts, Casitas Laquita and the Queen of Hearts Resort, are south of downtown. Casitas Laquita is on 450 East Palm Canyon Drive and Queen of Hearts is just two blocks behind it on 435 Avenida Olancha. The Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism issues an official gay visitors' guide that lists descriptions of all the resorts along with a map. The bureau also has a fulltime gay liaison, former San Franciscan Jeff Hocker, who makes it his job to keep Palm Springs in the forefront of gay travel destinations. The Chamber of Commerce in neighboring Cathedral City doesn't offer a gay guide but the Palm Springs area LGBT publication, *Bottom Line*, publishes a business guide that includes Cathedral City, www.psbottomline.com.

Although sex and the prospect of hooking up drives much of the resort business, there is a gradation of the cruise quotient. For example, the upscale Hacienda Warm Sands caters mainly to gay couples while many of its Warm Sands neighbors focus their marketing toward singles.

Most of the resorts are owned by gay couples and that personal gay touch shows. I took an unannounced tour of most of the re-

sorts and was impressed by the impeccable level of maintenance and attention to detail. Some of the resorts promote a sexually-charged atmosphere and some do not, but regardless of the sexual temperature, most owners maintain an atmosphere of friendliness that gets transmitted through to the staff and guests.

Another feature you will find in most of the Palm Springs resorts: rooms with kitchenettes complete with all the kitchen utensils you'll need. Personally, I'd rather not go through the bother of cooking in my room but I met a few people who said they like the novelty of being able to eat a home-cooked meal away from home.

The bulk of the gay resorts and clubs are in Palm Springs city limits, but its neighboring city, Cathedral City, also features a growing gay scene. Business owners there are sensitive to any perception that they are separate from the Palm Springs community and are quick to point out that Cathedral City is closer to many points of interest in Palm Springs than parts of Palm Springs itself.

The largest full-service gay hotel in the Palm Springs area is the Villa Resort Palm Springs, about 500 yards over the border in Cathedral City. The upscale resort features lush landscaping and a restaurant and bar. Expansion plans are in the works to annex a recently acquired 2.5-acre lot that will double the resort's current space.

Another of Cathedral City's mega-resorts is the Cathedral City Boys' Club. It has 32 rooms. That puts it on par with some of Palm Springs' largest resorts, and with its expansive 3.5 acres, it has room for all the people who use it on a day/night pass as an outdoor bathhouse or a place to just relax in a gay clothing-optional environment.

A room in a Palm Springs area resort starts at about \$80. Most have a wide variety from which to choose. Most will give you a choice of a standard room or suite and some are much more like apartments than hotel suites. The Triangle Inn will rent you a whole house that's attached to the resort. Most resorts provide a free breakfast and that usually means real food, not just coffee and doughnuts. A few of the more upscale resorts also supply lunch.

Eats

Speaking of food, there is no shortage of gay and gay-friendly restaurants in the Palm Springs area. One of the best known, Blame it on Midnight, is a must-

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January 2004

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with NORVIR. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

Patient Information **NORVIR®** (Nor-veer)

Generic Name: ritonavir
(rit-ON-uh-veer)

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking NORVIR. Also, read it each time you get your NORVIR prescription refilled, just in case something has changed. Remember that this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor when you start this medication and at check ups.

You should remain under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR and you should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor. You should tell your doctor about any medicine you are taking or planning to take because taking NORVIR with some medications can result in serious or life-threatening problems.

Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about NORVIR. Your doctor or pharmacist can also give you more information about NORVIR.

What is NORVIR and how does it work?

NORVIR is in a class of medicines called the HIV protease (PRO-tease) inhibitors. NORVIR is used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. NORVIR is for adults and for children age 2 years and older. HIV infection leads to the destruction of CD₄ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD₄ (T) cells have been destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

NORVIR blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. NORVIR reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of CD₄ (T) cells. Patients who took NORVIR in clinical studies had significant reductions in both death and AIDS defining diseases; however NORVIR may not have these effects in all patients.

Does NORVIR cure HIV or AIDS?

NORVIR does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of NORVIR are not known at this time. People taking NORVIR may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does NORVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

NORVIR does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take NORVIR?

You should stay under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

It is very important that you take NORVIR every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it.

The usual dose for adults is six 100 mg capsules or 7.5 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.

The dosing of NORVIR may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.

Children from 2 to 16 years of age can also take NORVIR. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's height and weight.

Take NORVIR with food if possible.

NORVIR Oral Solution is peppermint/caramel flavored. You can take it alone, or improve the taste by mixing it with 8 ounces of chocolate milk, Ensure®, or Advera®. NORVIR Oral Solution should be taken within 1 hour if mixed with these items. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about other ways to improve the taste of NORVIR Oral Solution.

Do not change or stop taking NORVIR without first talking with your health care provider.

When your NORVIR supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to NORVIR and become harder to treat.

Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give NORVIR to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of NORVIR?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of NORVIR, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much NORVIR?

If you think that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, NORVIR should be kept out of the reach of young children. NORVIR liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of NORVIR, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take NORVIR?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether NORVIR is right for you.

Do not take NORVIR if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take NORVIR, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with NORVIR, please read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

Do not take NORVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to NORVIR or any of its ingredients.

Can I take NORVIR with other medications?

NORVIR may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR.

Do not take the following medicines with NORVIR because they can cause serious or life-threatening problems such as irregular heartbeat, breathing difficulties or excessive sleepiness could occur:

Cordarone® (amiodarone)
Ergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine, and dihydroergotamine such as Cafergon®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, and others
Halcion® (triazolam)
Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Quinidine, also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
Rythmol® (propafenone)
Seldane® (terfenadine)
Tambocor® (flecainide)
Vascore® (bepridil)
Versed® (midazolam)

Do not take NORVIR with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease NORVIR levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to NORVIR or cross-resistance to other antiretroviral medicines.

Do not take NORVIR with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between NORVIR and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with NORVIR.

Medicines that may require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking NORVIR. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

The following medicines require dose reduction if taken with NORVIR:

If you are taking Viagra® (sildenafil), your doctor may lower your dose of Viagra.

Before you take Viagra with NORVIR, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and NORVIR together, you may be at risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should get medical help immediately to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

If you are taking Oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, your doctor should increase the dose or you should use a different type of contraception since NORVIR may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

Other Special Considerations:

NORVIR oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

If you are taking both didanosine (Videx) and NORVIR: Didanosine and NORVIR should be separated by at least 2.5 hours.

Rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®, may reduce blood levels of NORVIR. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking rifampin.

What are the possible side effects of NORVIR?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The most commonly reported side effects are: feeling weak/tired, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, changes in taste, tingling feeling or numbness in hands or feet or around the lips, headache, and dizziness.

Blood tests in patients taking NORVIR may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and

Hepatitis C who take NORVIR may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including rare cases of death have occurred in patients taking NORVIR. It is unclear if NORVIR caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

Some patients taking NORVIR can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis) which may cause death. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

Allergic reactions ranging from mild to severe have occurred in patients taking NORVIR.

There have been other side effects noted in patients receiving NORVIR; however, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or persistent symptoms to your doctor immediately.

What should I tell my doctor before taking NORVIR?

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of NORVIR on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking NORVIR. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking NORVIR.

If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

If you have hemophilia: Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B.

How do I store NORVIR?

Keep NORVIR and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

Store NORVIR Oral Solution at room temperature. Do not refrigerate NORVIR Oral Solution. Avoid exposing NORVIR Oral Solution to excessive heat or cold.

Refrigeration of NORVIR soft gelatin capsules by the patient is recommended, but not required if used within 30 days and stored below 77°F (25°C). Avoid exposing NORVIR soft gelatin capsules to excessive heat or cold.

Store NORVIR soft gelatin capsules and NORVIR Oral Solution in the original container.

Shake NORVIR Oral Solution well before each use.

Use NORVIR Oral Solution by the expiration date on the bottle. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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TRAVEL



One of the opulent bedrooms in Liberace's Palm Springs home.

Liberace's legacy lives in Palm Springs

by Ed Walsh

The spirit of Liberace is alive and well in Palm Springs and is inhabited in the body of Stefan Hemming.

The former model and Swedish native now lives in Liberace's house on 501 North Belardo Road in Palm Springs. If you forget the house number, just look for the candelabra out front.

Liberace bought the house in 1966 and it was the place where he died of AIDS in 1987.

Hemming was a longtime friend of the entertainer and he has kept the home in much the same way as when Liberace lived there. The expansive mansion features a center courtyard with an observation tower. It has 8,000 square feet with eight bedrooms, nine bathrooms, and of course, a pool and the obligatory gazebo.

The affable Hemming enjoys talking to sightseers and seems to get a kick out of the tour buses that

make their regular runs around his property. The drivers are on a first name basis with him. The home is not generally open for tours but Hemming agreed to take this writer and reporters from the *Washington Times* and France's largest newspaper, *Le Monde*, for a mini-tour of the house.

Each room is impeccably maintained in Liberace's opulent style. Hemming said he is happy that he was able to keep up the house as it was when Liberace lived there. At one point in the tour, Hemming literally blended in with his surroundings. His tiger print shirt matched the wallpaper in an African safari-themed room. Each bedroom is decorated in antiques and each bathroom is a destination in itself. One features floor to ceiling tile paintings of mostly naked Greeks doing what mostly naked Greeks do. Another bathroom is almost complete in white marble. And of course, chandeliers are everywhere and I saw at least two grand pianos.

Although he's toyed with the idea of putting it on the market, Hemming is concerned that a new owner would change it or worse.

"I think it would become a parking lot, unfortunately, when the land becomes popular," he said.

Hemming prefers to think of the happy times the entertainer spent in the house and doesn't like discussing his death.

"I don't know why people talk about that," he explained. "If you buy a house in San Francisco, 30 people have died in it."

After his modeling career, Hemming worked in the real estate business in San Francisco. He's retired now and delights in being able to host parties and community events in his home.

If you're wondering how old he is, I swallowed my manners. I did my journalistic duty. I asked. He wouldn't tell. He said that a reporter from a local paper also asked and he wouldn't tell him either. ▼

Palm Springs

◀ page 14

see. The bar and restaurant is the unofficial gathering place for many of the desert city's gay movers and shakers. Other well-known eateries include Spike's, and the recently opened Wang's, Cosswalk Café, Hamburger Mary's, Rainbow Cactus Café, Spikes, and Tomboyz Café.

There are more than 90 restaurants in Palm Springs alone.

Shopping

There are several small gay gift and book stores scattered throughout downtown Palm Springs including in the heart of gay Palm Springs, along Arenas Road, where you'll find the gay-focused retailers GayMart, Classic Chic, and Bling.

Palm Springs also has a reputation for being one of the best places to buy antiques. Several such stores are clustered along North Palm Canyon Drive between Tachevah Drive and Amado Road. That area is known as the Uptown Heritage Antique and Gallery District. The proprietor of the Dwight Polen store and longtime Asian antique aficionado Tony Larcombe told the *Bay Area Reporter* that about 40 percent of his business is from tourists, many of whom are attracted to the bargains and the selection that they

can't get at home.

Getting there

Starting at about \$125 round-trip, Alaska Airlines has three nonstop flights leaving from San Francisco – and one from San Jose's airport – to Palm Springs each day. I took advantage of a special Alaska Airlines was running and got away with a fare of \$107 round-trip, including taxes. Expect to pay about \$20 more for the cheapest ticket now. But the least expensive ticket usually means that you will have to depart in the evening and return on an early morning flight. Several other airlines fly to Palm Springs, but most make you change planes in Los Angeles. From now until May, United has one nonstop flight on Saturday and Sunday between San Francisco and Palm Springs.

Once you get there, you'll find that renting a car at the Palm Springs airport couldn't be more streamlined. The rental car companies share a lot just steps from their airport counters, directly across from baggage claim. Just check in, get the keys, and you're on your way. I found a huge price difference in rental companies. I wound up paying a little less than \$20/day at Dollar. Other bigger companies wanted nearly twice that for the same car. Your best bet is to use a good travel site like Orbitz, Travelocity, or Expedia. Lock in the cheapest rate you can find

early. Then, a day or two before you leave, check again to see if the companies are offering any last-minute deals. You might also want to check out Hotwire.com or Priceline.com for last-minute bargains. Or you may want to save all that trouble and call a good travel agent to make your arrangements.

There are also shuttle services, and of course taxi service that will take you on the short drive to the city center. ▼

Next week: Palm Springs' indoor hidden treasures and the evolution of the desert city's gayest neighborhood.

Gay dates

March 26-28: Dinah Shore weekend

April 8-12: White Party

November 6-7: Pride festival and parade

For a free gay visitors' guide, call the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism at 1-888-866-2744 or visit their Web site www.palm-springs.org. A visitors' guide that includes businesses in Cathedral City can be found in the region's LGBT's publication, the *Bottom Line*, www.psbottomline.com. Click on the resources section. ▼

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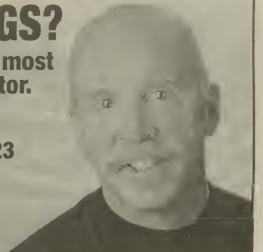
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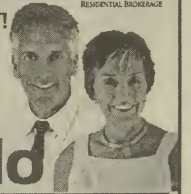
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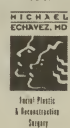
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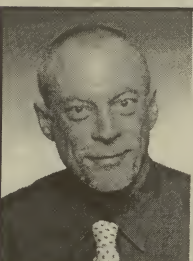
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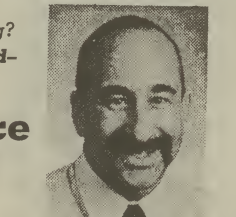
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Gay marriages

◀ page 12

church in Dallas over a decade ago and registered as domestic partners eight years ago when they moved to San Francisco.

"We saw it on the CNN Web site. It shocked us," said Crawford.

"This is just absolutely wonderful," said Hanus. "We got here at 6 p.m. Thursday but the office was closed. It was a trial run for today."

Unlike their first wedding ceremony, Hanus said "now we can say not only are we married to each other but, yes, we are married."

Exchanging their original wedding rings, melted down from objects the two men owned, Hanus said "we had a ceremony 12 years ago but are getting our license today."

Crockett couple Daniel Weinstein, 43, and Dean Kelch, 42, took BART to the city to get married one year after becoming domestic partners.

"It was a little emotional," said Weinstein, who has been with his partner for 21 years.

The couple had been talking of going to Canada or Massachusetts to get married, but Kelch said "We are happy we could do this," adding they would either honeymoon in Spain or Italy.

As for opponents trying to invalidate their marriage, Kelch said, "I say it's fine to be against it but what does that have to do with me?"

"To be against gay marriage is to be against marriage period," added Weinstein.

Many of Friday's couples said they considered themselves to be ordinary citizens who were not usually political, but the moment offered them an opportunity to be celebrated, as well as counted.

"Oh my god, you guys are holding hands!" remarked a younger brother of one such bride as he followed his sister and partner to the altar. The women—who graciously accepted six different cameras in their faces just moments after their first public display of affection—asked to remain anonymous in print.

Later that afternoon, it was announced that the court hearing for the injunction had been delayed until Tuesday, February 17, which meant that marriages could continue throughout the weekend.

When the city clerk's office closed for the day, Friday's marriages were moved to the second floor, with judges and deputies stationed throughout different stone archways to perform ceremonies. Like a market or festival, spectators roamed the long looped corridors throughout the evening, stopping in at each nook to glimpse the show inside.

Many couples who did not have the time to be outfitted in formal attire chose creative costumes, from coordinated Hawaiian or Western themes, to matching colored denim and hip-hop suits.

Those who were unable to round up their families on such short notice asked strangers-turned-friends in line to serve as their legal witnesses and photographers. Witnesses also often served as telephone operators, calling the couples' families and holding the cell phones to the ceremony so that long-distance relatives could be there for the vows.

The evening ended with a city-sponsored reception and appearances and speeches from Newsum, Leno, Dufty, and others.

Weekend wedding blitz

From Thursday through the

long holiday weekend and into early this week, each day at City Hall seemed to exude its own unique flavor.

If Friday's ceremonies were the regional revolution, Saturday's ceremonies felt more global in scale; an overwhelming number of out-of-towners descended upon City Hall, and the line to get married started inside and wrapped around the outside of the building.

One couple said they had driven from Minnesota on Thursday upon hearing the news, while others hopped on expensive last-minute flights from the East Coast and from other countries entirely.

Saturday's same-sex marriages were held on the fourth floor of City Hall, as the first and second floors had been reserved months in advance by opposite-sex couples for their Valentine's Day weddings. Many more volunteers were on hand to serve as witnesses and deputies in order to marry as many same-sex couples as possible.

Hundreds of couples had to be turned away on Saturday, but volunteers enabled City Hall to remain open on Sunday and Monday despite its scheduled closure.

Sunday offered another chance for those previously turned away, although the line once again wrapped around the outside of the building.

Because there was more time to invite extended families, Sunday's weddings featured a variety of religious and cultural traditions, and the ceremonies returned to the staircase and the stone nooks of the second-floor corridors.

At about 4 p.m. on Sunday, Joe Caruso, the mayor's director of neighborhood services, announced that those still outside would not be getting married that day.

"We have married over 1,500 couples since Thursday," Caruso told the cheering crowd. "You have witnessed history, and you have made history."

Caruso urged those in line to return on Monday for the 8 a.m. City Hall opening, but many weary travelers decided they were not going to risk being turned away again.

"Camp Wanna Be Wed," as one couple named it, was instantly set up along the grounds, even as the rain began to fall. Hundreds more arrived into the night, with the line once again wrapping around City Hall by midnight.

At 3 a.m. on Monday morning, the rain was falling hard and relentlessly, and gusts of wind swept the water into open tarps and tents. Temperatures were in the low 40s.

Nevertheless, the mood on the street was upbeat, with raucous laughter shaking the various forms of protective plastic.

"I think that all couples should have to do this before they get married," joked Heathen Smioly (now Blevins) of San Francisco, who had been standing in line since early Sunday and had secured a place for herself and her partner not far from the steps of City Hall.

"Seriously," a nearby friend joked back, wiping rain from his face, "we should be demanding reparations."

Around this time, some Good Samaritans arrived with large Styrofoam cases of hot chocolate and oatmeal for those who were braving the night. Earlier that evening, according to sources, students from the California Culinary Academy brought vats of hot tomato soup to the freezing, wet couples. Action alerts were posted around the Internet at about 5

p.m. when it became apparent that the dozens of couples in line did not plan to go home to sleep.

"These couples need our support so they don't get discouraged, so close to their goal. This has all happened so fast that many have come unprepared," said one such alert on a San Francisco online forum. "Things they need or can use: bottled water; pillows or cushions; comfy chairs, blankets, sleeping bags, or jackets; umbrellas, plastic sheets; moist towels; hot coffee or tea."

First in line for Monday's weddings was Rich Chapin, from Monterey, who along with Rick Tuscany, his partner of 15 years, had driven up to San Francisco two days earlier. They were turned away on both Saturday and Sunday.

"It'll happen for us," said Chapin under his makeshift house with an umbrella roof and trash bag walls. "But it's worth it just to be a part of this, to show support."

While some in line were able to secure a few hours of sleep on the wet, cold concrete, other campers sported heat lamps and cooking equipment, creating a late-night community of new friends within their immediate proximity.

The diligence paid off, as the city was able to marry 825 couples on Monday, breaking all previous records. Including the time it took to process all the licenses and record the marriages, it was estimated that the city was performing marriages at a rate of one per minute.

Tuesday, February 17 was the date for two separate court hearings seeking to stop the marriages, which meant most of those in line for that day were from California, fully aware that they may not leave with official marriage certificates, but willing and able to take that risk.

"It's about refusing to be invisible," said Ann Vugrin, 31, who was with her partner of six years, Liz Burke, 30.

The couple arrived early that morning from Oakland when they realized that marriages were still being performed. As of 11 a.m.—the scheduled time of the first court hearing—they were still in line on Polk Street and were not sure if they would be able to get inside.

"If we don't get it, then oh, well," said Burke. "We still wanted to show up, and show that couples are still here."

Shortly afterward, it was announced that the 11 a.m. court case had been denied a full hearing until Friday, February 20. The outside line erupted into applause, and 25 more couples were immediately let into City Hall, as the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus provided inspirational songs for the waiting couples outside.

A little after 3 p.m., when the line had been moved inside City Hall, it was announced that those who had not yet received numbers to secure their licenses probably would not get married that day. Dozens decided to stay in line anyway.

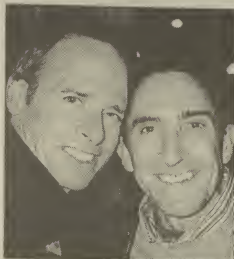
"If we do not receive a stay from the court today, then we will begin processing marriage licenses at 8 a.m. tomorrow," announced a City Hall worker.

Bay Area Community of Women is hosting a free wedding reception for Lyon and Martin Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, 5 Embarcadero. Go to www.bacw.org for more info. ▼

For more on the San Francisco same-sex weddings, visit Zak Szymanski's Web site at www.authentic-city.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding announcements



David James Bellecci and Jason Victor Serinus

On Friday, February 13, 2004 Jason Victor Serinus and David James Bellecci joined hundreds of other same-sex couples to unite in marriage in San Francisco City Hall. The Oakland couple, who met through the East Bay Express, exchanged the rings they have been wearing since last year. The couple's witness was their dear friend, Bela Nuss.

Mr. Serinus writes about music and reviews audiophile equipment for publications throughout the United States. These include Opera News, the Bay Area Reporter, Gay City News, East Bay Express, the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Francisco Examiner, and the Advocate. He is a member of the Music Critics Association of North America and the International Association of Whistlers.

Mr. Serinus also edited one of the first books on holistic healing of AIDS, psychoimmunity, and the healing process (Celestial Arts, now out of print). He founded the former Castro Street Healing Group. He is an ordained minister in the Church of the Gentle Brothers and Sisters.

Mr. Bellecci is a hairstylist at Givae Salon on Oakland's Piedmont Avenue. He has worked in the profession for over 25 years. Many of the Bay Area's finest musicians number among his clientele.

Mr. Serinus and Mr. Bellecci are also musicians. Mr. Bellecci is a tenor who sang in the world premiere of David Conte's opera *The Dreamers*. He has also won the Oratorio Division NATS competition. Mr. Serinus is a soprano whistler. Recently inducted into the Whistler's Hall of Fame, he provided "The Voice of Woodstock" by whistling Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" in an Emmy-nominated Peanuts cartoon. He also serves as a judge of the annual Out-music Awards.

"If it wasn't for George Bush, I would have never gotten married," said Mr. Bellecci. "That he included threatened attacks on my freedoms in his State of the Union speech in part mobilized me to action. But the main reason I married Jason is that I love him very much."

"Stripped of its extraneous religious and social baggage, marriage signifies a deep spiritual commitment," said Mr. Serinus. "When we looked in each other's eyes and vowed to stand by and remain faithful to each other in health and in sickness for the rest of our lives, I felt the affirming power of those words resound within me."

The couple extends their deepest gratitude to San Francisco's new mayor, Gavin Newsom, for ordering same-sex marriage legal in San Francisco County. Equal thanks extend to city and county

employees who left their usual assignments to help facilitate the marriage process.

Post-wedding plans include looking for a home.



Vicki Zettler and Florence Bray

Vicki Zettler and Florence Bray were married on Thursday February 12, 2004 at San Francisco City Hall by Assemblyman Mark Leno. Their vows were witnessed by Ms. Bray's mother, Grace "Harmony" Bray, the couple's friend, Steven Epstein, and niece, Sheena Holt. After 10 years together, this was a long-term dream fulfilled.

The couple met in the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco 11 years ago. Ms. Bray works in finance in downtown San Francisco and Ms. Zettler is a self-employed manager. The couple resides in Potrero Hill with their dog, Keeley. Ms. Bray grew up in the Bay Area and Ms. Zettler is originally from the East Coast.

As the news broke on February 12 that the city was marrying gay and lesbian couples, Ms. Zettler worked toward making her 10-year promise to Ms. Bray come true — to be married on the first day it became legal. At 1:30 p.m., Ms. Zettler proposed to Ms. Bray at her work place via Yahoo Instant Messenger and after four hours of phone calls and running back and forth to City Hall, their dreams finally came true.

The couple wishes to thank family, friends, Mayor Gavin Newsom, the City Hall staff, and the many volunteers for their support and tireless devotion to this cause.



Jesse Lanou and Toni King

Jesse Lanou and Toni King were married in the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda on February 15, 2004. Ms. Lanou is a retired San Francisco deputy sheriff and an instructor at the Academy of Art College of San Francisco. Ms. King is an R.N. and clinic director for

the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in San Francisco. They own a home in Richmond and have four daughters and two grandsons.



Lorie and Annemary Franks

Annemary and Lorie Franks of Hercules, California were married on February 13, 2004. The couple has been together for 13 years and has three daughters, Maggie (9), Julia (6), and Jacqueline (1). Dr. Annemary Franks is the daughter of James and Marianne Franks of Santa Cruz and is a graduate of Harbor High School (Santa Cruz), Santa Clara University, Creighton University Medical School, and the UC Davis Pediatric Residency program. Annemary Franks is currently a pediatrician in private practice in Berkeley, and associate medical director for Alta Bates Medical Group. She is president of the local elementary school PTA, and coordinator of children's religious education at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in the Castro.

Dr. Lorie Franks is the daughter of Imelda Baca of Kenmore, Washington, and is a graduate of Arvada West High School (Arvada, Colorado), Stanford University, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, the UC Davis Pediatric Residency program and the UCSF Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship training program. Lorie Franks is currently a stay-at-home mom to the

couple's three children. She is vice president of the PTA, a Brownie troop leader, e-group coordinator for Our Family Coalition, and a member of the choir at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in the Castro.

Although Lorie and Annemary Franks have been married in their hearts and minds for 13 years, they feel that the legal ceremony is an important step toward equality for all people. The newlyweds will plan a weekend-getaway honeymoon in the near future ... if they can find a babysitter!

David Allyn and Mark Murphy

David Wayne Allyn and Mark Joseph Murphy of San Francisco were married February 14, 2004 in San Francisco's City Hall.

Mr. Allyn is a 1999 graduate of San Francisco State with a B.A. in liberal studies with additional education from Michigan State University. He is credentialed by the state of California as an elementary school teacher and is a third grade teacher at Argonne Year Round School in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Mr. Murphy is a 1987 graduate of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska with a B.S. in statistics. He is employed as the director of program management with KLM Creative Inc. in San Francisco.

The couple's ceremony was witnessed by their friend, Rose Skytta, of San Francisco.

Mr. Allyn is the son of Dewaine (deceased) and Donna Lu Allyn, of Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Mr. Murphy is the son of Charles (deceased) and stepmother Marian Murphy, of Pleasant Valley, Iowa, and mother Mary Murphy, of Bettendorf, Iowa.

Having met through mutual friends nearly nine years ago, the couple said they are grateful for the love and support of those that surround them in their daily lives.



Cynthia Laird and Vicky Kolakowski

Cynthia Laird and Vicky Kolakowski were married Thursday, February 12 in San Francisco's City Hall. Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng performed the ceremony.

Ms. Laird, 42, is the news editor of the Bay Area Reporter. She graduated from California State University Sacramento with a B.A. degree in government-journalism. She is the daughter of Carol Hollingworth of San Leandro and Stanley Laird (deceased).

Ms. Kolakowski, 42, is a staff counsel for the California Electricity Oversight Board. She received her law degree from Louisiana State University; additionally, she holds master's degrees in engineering and public administration. She is the daughter of Martin and June Kolakowski of Staten Island, New York.

The couple met in 1994.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

Wedding announcements and photos (JPG format) may be sent via e-mail to BARpaper@aol.com or mail to Bay Area Reporter, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. For questions, please send an e-mail to the above address.

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—Paul Wisotzky, ADAP Client



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—Belinda Curtis, Financial Renewals Counselor



"What good are treatments if I can't get them? You take away our medications, and you take away our hope."

—Solenne Mahan, ADAP Client



"ADAP saves lives! Governor Schwarzenegger, please don't place a balanced budget above people's lives."

—Tina Ochoa, ADAP Client

Don't Let Governor Schwarzenegger Deny Life-Saving Drugs to People with HIV and AIDS

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is a lifeline for uninsured and underinsured Californians living with HIV and AIDS—providing medications to preserve their lives. But Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 2004-05 budget does not include \$25 million in increased funding for ADAP to assure treatment for people with no other program to turn to. The Governor

has proposed that ADAP be permanently closed at its current level of 23,900 enrollees. This will result in approximately 1,440 people being placed on a waiting list for life-saving HIV medications every year. The ADAP shortfall could also cause many drugs currently available to ADAP enrollees to be taken away from them.

ATTEND THE RALLY TO SAVE ADAP.

State Capitol - South Steps Sacramento, California

The State Capitol is located at L and 11th Streets in Sacramento. Limited transportation from San Francisco and the East Bay will be available. Legislative visits with key members of the State Legislature and/or staff are being scheduled that afternoon.

For information, email policy@staf.org or call 415-487-3080

Monday, March 8, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
The Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing on ADAP at 2:30 p.m. Please plan to stay until 4:00 p.m. to advance full funding for this program.

Partial list of Rally sponsors: San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Project Inform, WORLD, API Wellness Center, AIDS Project East Bay, Continuum, Black Coalition on AIDS, Ark of Refuge, Shant

Sharon Smith, partner wed

by Ed Walsh

Sharon Smith, the woman who helped personify the struggle for same-sex partner rights as the grieving partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, was among those married in San Francisco City Hall last week.

Sharon Smith and Michelle Enlow tied the knot in a brief City Hall ceremony on Thursday, February 12. The couple brought along their two 2-month-old babies, Chase Montgomery and Kennedy Alexis. The girl's middle name is in honor of Whipple, explained Michael Cardoza, Smith's attorney. Smith had called Whipple by her middle name, Alexis.

Chase Montgomery was born to Smith, and Enlow gave birth to Kennedy Alexis, Cardoza said.

Cardoza noted that his client changed her name to Enlow-Smith. "She's ecstatic about it and very thankful for the opportunity to get married," the attorney said.

Cardoza said that his client should be "exceptionally proud," because after losing someone she loved so deeply, she was able to go forward with her life and help lobby for gay rights legislation in Whipple's memory. Cardoza noted that her testimony in support of Assembly Bill 25 helped get it passed. Among other provisions, AB25 gives domestic partners comparable rights to married couples in civil court cases. ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

John (Bill) Bryant



John was born August 25, 1922 in Gary, Indiana and died unexpectedly but peacefully of natural causes at his home in San Francisco on Veterans Day, November 11, 2003.

John was a sergeant in the Air Force during World War II. As a gunner on a B-24 Liberator, he completed numerous missions over Germany before being shot down and taken prisoner by the Germans in October 1944. As a prisoner of war, he was moved from one camp to another to keep ahead of the advancing American and Russian forces and was not liberated until May 1945. When discharged, John held three Air Medals, a Unit Citation, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars on his ETO ribbon, the Purple Heart and a Caterpillar Pin awarded for bailing out of a

plane.

Upon being discharged, he resumed his studies and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in September 1947. Like many veterans who were stationed in California during the war, John wanted to return here after his discharge and lived for several years in Los Angeles before coming to the Bay Area.

John was very active in veteran's affairs, especially the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and was generous in assisting needy veterans.

John lived a full and enthusiastic life. He had numerous friends to whom he was loyal and generous. His many interests included his home, which he was constantly improving, and his beloved cats. He was a dedicated collector of military and physique memorabilia.

Survivors include a sister, niece and nephew who live in Southern California and numerous friends in the Bay Area and elsewhere.

John expressly did not want a funeral or memorial service. However, in accordance with his wishes, his ashes have been interred in the San Joaquin National Cemetery, California. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Military Order of the Purple Heart or the San Francisco SPCA.

Richard Deal



Richard Deal, 50, of Naples, Florida, died January 25, 2004, from cancer, with his life partner, Joseph Melly, by his side. Richard had lived for 25 years in San Francisco, California (Castro District).

He loved the tranquility of the water and chose to spend the remainder of his life in his home. Richard's last wish was to say thank you and "Aloha" to his family, friends and caregivers. He was very moved by your love and support.

His beloved mother, Ruth, preceded him in death.

His father, Robert, and brother, Robert, survive him.

Per his request, there will not be a service. Anyone wishing to send condolences may do so to his residence.

Fr. G. Walton Guidry, SSJ
Feb. 16, 1943 — Feb. 27, 2004

After enjoying "the company of old and dear friends at Christmas," Walton returned from Texas for "a flawless New Year's Eve in San Francisco."

Days later, he experienced flu and pneumonia symptoms and was hospitalized at St. Mary's Medical Center, where he suffered a massive stroke and died on January 27, 2004.

Walton received wonderful care at Saint Mary's and was surrounded by loving friends and a caring medical staff.

Walton leaves behind a wide circle of friends, from his days as a priest, his many hours of volunteer service with the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, KOED and his work with the AIDS Emergency Fund Pennies Project.

Walton leaves all of us with wonderful memories of his love of fine art and music, his kindness, generous heart and great humor.

We invite all of his friends to join in a "Fat Sunday" celebration of Walton's Louisiana beginnings at The Transfer Bart at 14th & Church streets (above Market) on Sunday, February 22, 2004 from 4 p.m. till 8 p.m.

Richard J. Rollins



Richard J. Rollins passed on January 30, 2004 at 7:35 a.m., peacefully in the arms of his partner Mark S. Rollins, at home, in San Pablo, California. His charming, intoxicating smile and warm charisma

will be missed. Richard was loved by a multitude of family, both blood and community. We are truly graced by his 45 years of life experience that he freely shared with us all.

Richard was born April 26, 1958, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the youngest of six children, 2 girls and 4 boys. In his youth his family moved to Tucson, Arizona where he lived until 1982. While in Arizona, Richard received a BA in Com-

puter Science and a Minor in Architecture from the University of Phoenix.

He moved to San Francisco in 1982 where he excelled in his career as an operations manager. Richard made his final home and residence in San Pablo with his partner of 10 years, Mark S. Rollins. Of the many experiences in Richard's life, he particularly enjoyed traveling, living lavishly, and proved that being radically different can be accomplished with generosity, kindness, and a genuine love of others.

Richard was preceded in death by his father George Rollins and his oldest sister Kathleen Rotella. He is survived by: his life partner Mark S. Rollins, his puppies Chelsea & Colt, his mother Georgette Rollins, his eldest brother George Rollins & Family, sister Carol Breton & Family, brother Patrick Rollins & Family, brother Robert Rollins & Sherrie Warren.

Richard was interred to his mausoleum in Tucson Arizona on February 7, 2004, following a celebration of Life attended by Family and Arizona friends. An additional local "Celebration of Life" will be held at the Guerneville Redwood Chapel and Memorial Gardens, on Saturday March 6 at 2 p.m., with an informal reception to follow at the Russian River Resort. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please make donations to AEF.

To the love of my life, who filled the darkest parts of my soul with love, laughter, and life, I bid you farewell. I pledge to carry on your spirit in my daily affairs, till we meet again in God's House. I love you, Twenty Five to Life, As Big as the Sky, and With all my Heart and Soul. Dear God, Thy Will be Done. — Mark S. Rollins

Steven Weiss



Steven Weiss, 52, of Redwood City, formerly of San Luis Obispo County, died peacefully Monday June 30, 2003 his home. He was long time AIDS survivor.

Steve was born December 15, 1950 in Watertown, Wisconsin. He moved to San Francisco, California in 1978, where he lived and worked until 1989. In 1989 he moved to San Luis Obispo and became involved with the local community. He joined the AIDS Support Network and for 10 years served as a volunteer and member of the board of directors. During this time he experienced the loss of his long-time partner Lou.

In 1999 Steve moved to Redwood

City with his partner Dave. There he planted his roots and began the process of reinventing himself. He became a locksmith and continued to cultivate his bond with life and God by planting a beautiful flower garden.

Steve's air of grace and spirituality made him a source of inspiration and hope to all who knew him. He is survived by his loving partner of seven years, Dave London; Dave's daughters, Tiana and Aja; three cats, his mother and family in Wisconsin; and many friends and extended family throughout California.

Charles Francis Wofford



Wofford, Charles Francis — Passed away peacefully in San Francisco on February 2, 2004 after complications from a lingering illness. He was 72 years old.

Born in Dallas, Texas on August 13, 1931, Charles attended school in McKinney, Texas and graduated from Boyd High School in 1949.

After various short-term jobs in Dallas and New Orleans, Chuck moved to San Francisco in 1957 and began working for Johnson Printing Plates. Johnson was purchased in the eighties by Walker Engraving and Chuck continued his employment with Walker until his retirement in 1989 on medical disability.

Mr. Wofford was a member of the Market Street Railway Association that oversees the upkeep of the old streetcars on S.F. Muni F Line. He also volunteered as a researcher at the Golden Gate National Park Archives in the Presidio, and has written books on all of the gun emplacements and batteries surrounding San Francisco.

He is survived by cousins Daisianne Younger and Robert Davis on his mother's side, and stepister Jo-Hal Wofford Brown, nephews Web, Thiess and Tracy and nieces Rande Lee, Jo-Christy and Cary on his father's side, all of the Dallas/Austin, Texas area.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, February 29, 2004 from 1-4 p.m. at El Pirata Restaurant in San Francisco on 16th St. at Potrero St. for relatives and friends in the Bay Area. Funeral services and interment will be held March 13, 2004 at Restland Funeral Home & Cemetery, 9220 Restland Rd., Dallas, TX 75243. Contact Wayne Douglas for additional information at (972) 761-8859.

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Punctuation, deadlines upend
gay marriage court cases

by Matthew S. Bajko

Antigay foes fighting to stop the same-sex wedding ceremonies taking place in City Hall saw their cases derailed for the moment due to missed deadlines, a wrong fax number, and the placement of punctuation.

For gay and lesbian couples clamoring to exchange vows, 13 was a lucky number when a judge ruled last Friday, February 13, that lawyers for the Prop. 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund failed to meet a 10 a.m. notification deadline and postponed hearing their request for an immediate stay until Tuesday.

In order for the case to be heard, the city had to receive notice by 10 a.m. the day before the hearing. According to Therese Stewart, deputy city attorney, the

city did not receive notice until Friday morning and only received the court papers an hour and a half prior to the 2 p.m. hearing.

The decision by San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren led city officials to open City Hall throughout the holiday weekend, in effect opening the doors to thousands of same-sex couples wishing to say "I do."

A second antigay group, Campaign for California Families, also failed to meet proper notification requirements for a judge to hear its case Tuesday morning. The problem turned out to be a wrong fax number.

According to Stewart, neither the mayor's office, the clerk's office nor the city attorney's office received notice of the hearing by 10 a.m. Friday. She said the first notice came at 2:30 p.m. that a case would be filed, but there was no

indication of a date or time for the hearing. It was only at 4:30 p.m. that a date and time for the proceedings was faxed to the clerk's office.

On Tuesday, Stewart argued the city had not received all the paperwork in the case, noting the lawyers for CCF had faxed the documents to the wrong number. Both the area code and local number were wrong.

"I am speculating that is why it didn't make it to the mayor's office," said Stewart.

Rena Lindevaldsen, an attorney for the Liberty Counsel, disagreed with Stewart's argument that the city was unaware of the case.

"The county clerk's office was open all weekend. The press had reported that the two cases were going on. Everyone knew about

page 22 ►

Judges

◀ page 10

couple to wed last week, said Tuesday was a "great day for the city" and a "very big victory for the couples." He predicted that as each day passes where gay couples can wed, "people will see the sky doesn't fall and it will be that much harder to stop" the weddings from

continuing.

Though he added, "We are at the very beginning stages of a legal battle that in all likelihood will fall upon the California Supreme Court to decide. I have no doubt the court will say this is allowable."

If anything, the gay weddings that have taken place since last Thursday are educating Americans about the discrimination gay

couples face, said Tamara Lange, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "This is an issue a lot of people didn't understand. They didn't know [gay couples] couldn't get married."

On Friday, February 20 both sides in the CCF case will be back in court, while the Prop. 22 attorneys and the city will be back before Judge Warren on March 29. ▼

Love match

by Jim Provenzano

"The only thing abominable about being gay is the amount of time you have to put in at the gym." — Bill Maher

The endurance event of the weekend was undoubtedly the marathon of lesbian and gay couples lining up outside City Hall to get married. Congratulations to the hundreds of happy couples (including our paper's editor and her partner!), and our new mayor, all of whom have defied a discriminatory state law.

They may all be sued, and the marriages unrecognized in most U.S. states, but hey, it's still pretty radical, no matter what.

Skin is in

To give your loved one the gift of long life together, stop by the Under the Skin kickoff event, presented by Lyon-Martin Health Services, Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street.

The launch of Under the Skin, a new program at Lyon-Martin and a community celebration of cardiovascular health, is free of charge, and includes lunch.

Enjoy cooking demos, movement and dance, acupuncture, motivational speakers, massage, workshops on the healing power of laughter, and more. Because after 25 years, Lyon-Martin knows how to treat women. Congrats to Phyllis and Del, too!

For more information, call (415) 901-7133, or visit www.lyon-martin.org.

Hap to it

Triangle Martial Arts Association announced the formation of a new martial arts group, the Triangle Hap Ki Do Club of San Francisco.

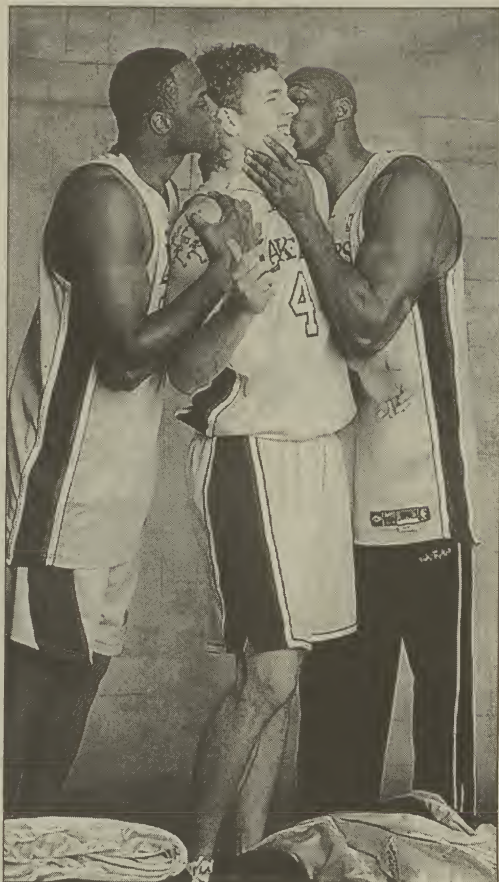
Hap ki do is a Korean martial art that focuses on the use of joint locks and leverage points to quickly and effectively disable or control an aggressor. It is less physically rigorous than other forms of martial arts study, and is particularly suited to persons of smaller stature or mature years, although it is advantageous for persons of all physical builds and ages.

Classes will be led by US THKDC technical director Master Ken Craig (7th Dan) and Master Mike Stoyka (5th Dan). Classes are currently held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at Everett Middle School on Church Street at 16th. A two-month introductory guest membership costs \$30 and includes a uniform.

Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club will hold its sixth black-belt promotional examination on Saturday, February 28, from noon to 6 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street.

Candidates will be tested on a variety of self-defense tactics, including grounded and spinning kicking techniques, hand strikes and blocks, board-breaking, sparring, one-step and three-step self-defense maneuvers, and forms (a series of choreographed defensive moves).

Candidates up for promotion are Stoyka (testing to third degree), Mike Pierce (testing to second degree), and Christopher Maden (testing to second degree). The testing is being held under the direction of Grand Master Martin



Gratuitously sexy photo of the week: LA Lakers Luke Walton in a Karl Malone and Horace Grant sandwich, from a *Sports Illustrated* special issue about the Lakers, surprisingly not celebrating gay marriage.

Marcus, Master Ken Craig, and other senior black belt holders.

The general public is welcome to attend this event. Spectator entry fees are \$2 for adults 18 years of age and over; and free for anyone 17 years of age or younger, student ID holders, and anyone 60 years of age or over.

For info, contact Ken Craig at (415) 495-1888 or info@trianglekdo.org.

All wet

Tsunami Polo will host another water polo beginner's clinic, Saturday, February 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at Mills College in Oakland. The medal-winning crew has men's, women's, and mixed practices and matches.

Dave Meyers will be running the clinic.

"Last time was super fun and we had an excellent turnout," said team member and clinic organizer Virginia Alber-Glanstaetten. "We also highly encourage all players that have joined us in the last six months, who are new to water polo and would enjoy a formal intro into the basics of the game."

For more info, visit www.tsunamipolo.org, or e-mail valbergan@yahoo.com.

Fumble

A few facts about former 49ers trainer Lyndsy McLean have been inaccurate before and after my article about him. Let's clarify a few things, at least from my end, which I got wrong from the *ESPN* magazine article.

McLean went to Vanderbilt

University, not Vanderbilt College, and was the head trainer at UC Santa Barbara, San Jose State, and was the Head Athletic Trainer at the University of Michigan, most definitely not Michigan State.

McLean also clarified that he believes Major League Baseball "has a terrible testing program for steroids," he said, clarifying our interview. "The players union in MLB has been the stumbling block. On the other hand, the NFL testing program is extensive and pretty darn effective."

Considering Attorney General John Ashcroft's indictments last week of four men associated with the Bay Area lab Balco regarding steroids allegedly sold to athletes (including Major League Baseball players), his reiteration is rather relevant.

One thing McLean was clear about was not naming football players who harassed him during his tenure with the 49ers.

The *Boston Globe* has not only named one player, but asked him about the incident. Ted Washington, a free agent defensive tackle, who played on this year's Patriots' Super Bowl team, purports an image of a do-good jock, with his own nonprofit foundation.

The *ESPN* magazine article about McLean describes "a 350-pound lineman [who] would chase [McLean] around, grab him from behind, push him against a locker, and simulate rape. ... The lineman, a starter in this year's Super Bowl, reprised his act whenever he could; even after he was traded to another team, he'd sneak up on McLean in the locker room and alongside the team bus."

next page ►

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Sports Complex

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49ers director of public relations Kirk Reynolds called the incident, "disturbing and bizarre."

Using a string of stats, the *Globe* article states, "Clearly Washington was the player in question," and that the bus incident to which McLean referred occurred October 28, 2001, following a 49ers loss at Chicago.

Washington's agent, Angelo Wright, confirmed to the *Globe* that the unidentified player was in fact Washington, while defending his client's behavior.

Wright is in contract negotiations with the Patriots, who allegedly have high standards of behavior that don't include assaulting your trainer. Wright seems to think his client shouldn't be responsible for his actions.

"Lindsay's just trying to sell some books," Wright told the *Globe*. "He's pointing Ted out so he can sell more books. It's an NFL locker room. It is what it is. It's the last bastion of male dominance. He's trying to single out Ted Washington. Call everybody out. Charles Haley, Larry Roberts, Kevin Fagan. Don't single one guy out."

Wright goes on: "There were a lot worse stories to tell about that team in the '80s... I'm not saying it was right or wrong, but in a locker room scene, what do you expect? Whatever."

The 49ers' Reynolds said McLean had no plans to write a book, and that he "didn't want [ESPN] to allude to who it was. He also thought there would be more balance. He told me that 90-95 percent of the players he dealt with were tremendous, and 90-95 percent of his time here was wonderful."

"He definitely didn't go into it with the intention of getting anything out of it," said Reynolds. "His hope was that somebody who lived in the gay community would benefit from it."

And Washington's agent obviously hoped to benefit from keeping his client's "disturbing and bizarre" behavior under wraps.

Barber-ian at the gate

Moving away from real athletes, but still in line yet another refutation of there being no such

thing as bad publicity, former pro wrestler Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake caused a bit of a stir last week when he created an anthrax scare at a Boston subway station.

The down and out grappler, really Edward Leslie, 46, of Winchester, let a terror alert run amok when, allegedly, a bit of his own cocaine stash left on a counter top scared a fellow transit worker, prompting an emergency hazmat response.

Leslie is said to have been compliant through the investigation, and to have checked into a rehab treatment center.

Let's hope he can afford it. The man who acquired his stage name for snipping off the hair of his enemies in the ring had been working part time for Boston's transit system as a fare collector - a job that pays \$25,000 a year. Last April, the IRS slammed him with a lien for \$57,425, for back taxes owed on his now lost millions made in pro wrestling.

Vroom

Let's move to other health-deestroying activities, what is still called a "sport" by many, and a convenient target market for George "AWOL" Bush.

Dubya blared out, "Gentlemen, start your engines," to begin NASCAR's Daytona 500 in his brother Jeb's election-soggy state of Florida last Sunday.

Arriving via Air Force One with his wife, Laura, (at the expense of your tax dollars) Bush made gestures to reporters as if he were steering a car around an oval track. It's a good thing neither of them actually drove any cars at NASCAR, what with their collective driving records.

"If you've never been to a Daytona 500 it's hard for me to describe what it's like to be down here with the drivers and to see the huge crowd and to feel the excitement for one of America's great sporting spectacles," Bush said in a run-on sentence interview for General Electric-owned NBC.

And you can smell the massive belch of fuel being consumed for a "sport" that claims lives in fiery fatal car wrecks, and which in fact killed Dale Earnhart Sr. But that didn't stop his son from following in daddy's skidmarks, by winning the race where his father perished.

Bush was wooing the

"NASCAR Dad" target market for votes, and the entire event was swarming with GOP recruiters, helping race car fans learn how to read a voter registration form.

Bush asked for "God's blessings" on the drivers who raced up to 200 miles per hour. They say God loves fools and sinners. Bush's father stopped by the Daytona 500 during his unsuccessful run for a second term in 1992. Let's hope for a repeat all around.

Like the Super Bowl, Chimp didn't have the stamina to stay and watch the entire race. Bush left halfway through it, but had donned a racing jacket to officially open NASCAR. Gee, maybe he'll claim he actually drove a race car in the National Guard, too.

Democratic presidential contender John Kerry knocked the president, saying the country was bleeding jobs while he posed for a "photo opportunity." Kerry's own photo op last month, actually playing ice hockey at a benefit, seemed a tad more authentic.

You're too chi, chi

Millions of Canadian dollars may be lost if folks don't go to Montreal's Rendez-Vous 2006. The official Gay Games VII will be held in the summer of 2006 in either Los Angeles or Chicago.

LA's Web site is finally showing some life, but Chicago seems to be taking the lead in public discussions and social events.

Chicago Games Inc. hosts the question and answer portion of their bidding process on Friday, February 20. They'll submit answers to the 188 questions asked about their bid document by the Federation of Gay Games earlier this month.

The event, taking place at T's Bar and Restaurant in Chicago, are only part of the Midwestern city's enthusiastic campaign to help focus GLBT athletes toward the official Gay Games VII.

LA is still in the running, though. To keep up on bids and news, visit www.chicagogamesinc.org, www.losangeles2006.org, and www.gaygames.com.

To keep up on Montreal's latest moves to upstage the real Games, visit www.montreal2006.org.

To read more previous articles about all that, visit www.sports-complex.org. ▼

marry his dog or a tree? Who should have that authority to marry a tree? Certainly not the mayor of San Francisco," said Tyler, referring to media accounts of a man who came to City Hall with a tree he wanted to marry. "The very foundation of liberty and democracy is at stake this very day. Not issuing a stay is an affront to our democracy, an affront to our society."

Stewart argued Tuesday the mayor's and clerk's actions are the "antithesis to municipal anarchy" later saying "there are many examples where a local official refuses to invoke a state law. It happens all the time."

The city has relied on the equal protection clause of the state Constitution in arguing that the mayor has a right to determine gays and lesbians deserve marriage licenses. Responding to Tyler's arguments, Stewart said, "The equal protection clause doesn't talk about dogs and trees. It only talks about human beings. We must protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority. That is what this case is about."

Refuting Tyler's assertion his client was being irreparably harmed, Stewart countered that those being truly harmed are

same-sex couples. Whether through remaining in the closet or being told they are not a family, Stewart argued that "every single day that homosexuals, gays and lesbians, are treated as inferior that status continues to bring harm to people."

"The balance of hardship is so far weighted to the other side there is nothing to counterbalance it," she added.

In the end, Warren told the Prop. 22 lawyers he couldn't accept their proposed court order because of a punctuation error. Instead of the word "or" they had used a semicolon. Their request asked the court to order the city to "cease and desist issuing marriage licenses to and/or solemnizing marriages of same-sex couples; to show cause before this court."

"The form or order submitted by petitioners seems inadvertently inaccurate. It seems small but that semicolon is a big deal," said Warren. "The way you've written this it has a semicolon where it should have the word 'or.' I don't have the authority to issue it under these circumstances."

After three hours of arguments, Warren said he could not find any standards to find for an immediate stay. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0273368-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucky Creation Vegetarian Restaurant L.L.C. 854 Washington St. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Hin Kwong Mak. California. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273398-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Heavenly B.B.Q. 798 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas M. Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273184-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: David Barnett Design 1370 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Barnett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/28/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273451-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Speed Pro Towing 251 Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Raul Oropeza. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/06/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/04.
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STATEMENT FILE A-0273489-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Handyman Bay Area 870 Showell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Emiliano Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273490-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Cleaning Gonzalez 1112 Showell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oscar Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are Prasad Vikashni Anita and Ali Syed M. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 1287 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of License applied for:
21 - OFF-SALE GENERAL
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273257-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Modlitbooks 585 Page St. #2 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lee Reynolds. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273608-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Out To Sea 1561 Treat Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jennifer Price. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/11/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SAN FRANCISCO, PETER KEEGAN, AND DOES 1 TO 30, INCLUSIVE. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: BILL PELTZ, AN INDIVIDUAL.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court.

A letter or phone call will not protect you; your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your response in time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of San Francisco 400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102. The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without attorney is: K.J. Petsas

Law Offices of K.J. Petsas, PC 1475 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 South San Francisco, CA. 94080; (650) 624-8155.

FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273546-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Explorairtour 323 Geary St. Suite 712 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Gordon M. Fetherolf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/10/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC 04-541183

In the Matter of the Application of Joe Nathan Homer for Change of Name. The application of Joe Nathan Homer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Joe Nathan Homer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Joe Nathan Tobie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273214-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: S and V Liquors 1287 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company signed Syed Ali. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273628-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Juan's Cutting Service 576 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Juan Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

Punctuation

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it," she argued.

The judge in the case, Ronald Evans Quidachay, also said he had yet to read all the paperwork since the original complaint filed Friday had been amended Tuesday morning an hour prior to court.

"I have not had an opportunity to read the amended complaint. I was getting the papers piecemeal. The court itself is not prepared to hear the matter," said Quidachay before postponing the matter to Friday, February 20.

On Tuesday, when the Prop. 22 case was taken up again, Robert Tyler, the lead counsel in the case, argued the court should issue an immediate stay, saying the marriages were a waste of taxpayer funds and a detriment to local taxpayers. On Friday Tyler described the city's actions as "municipal anarchy."

Tuesday, Tyler repeated that assertion, "this is the best term I can come up with and I think it works. This is municipal anarchy. There is no basis for a mayor to decide something is unconstitutional and act to do so."

"What if one should want to



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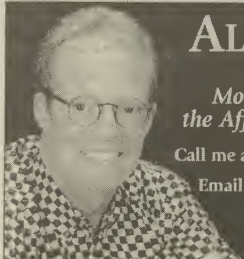
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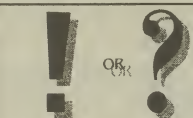
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0273153-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rainbow Art Pier 39 San Francisco CA 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Theodore Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/21/1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273285-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Precon Services Inc. 1486 31st Ave. San Francisco CA 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Gorman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/5/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/02/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273248-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fillmore Eye Wear 1490 Fillmore St. San Francisco CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nae Moon Park. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/30/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273064-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Anthroarts 350 Alabama St. #4 San Francisco CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sarah E. Murray. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/23/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272704-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Beautiful Day 674 Castro St. San Francisco CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jeanine K. Reisbig. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/12/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE #231919

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Geary Street Bella Pizza 4124 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business was conducted by general partnership, signed Lap Bo Chu. This statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541180

In the Matter of the Application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for Change of Name. The application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Abraham A. Fahim. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541181

In the Matter of the Application of Scott Michael Nelson for Change of Name. The application of Scott Michael Nelson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Scott Michael Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Scott Michael Nelson Winds. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273346-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Reemore Consulting 427 18th Ave. #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry P. Arundel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Solicitation No. 03-620-RFP-060

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed proposals for the Execution Signs and Stairwell Fire Identification Signs work at CAL 1-15, Ping Yuen; CAL 1-18(1), JFK Towers; CAL 1-18(5), Rosa Parks; CAL 1-18(6), Ping Yuen North; CAL 1-18(10), Woodside Gardens; CAL 1-19(1), 990 Pacific; CAL 1-27, 350 Ellis; CAL 1-28, 666 Ellis; CAL 1-30A, 462 Duboce; CAL 1-31, 25 Sanchez; CAL 1-32, 1760 Bush; CAL 1-35, 2698 California; CAL 1-39A, 939 Eddy; CAL 1-41, 430 Turk, located in San Francisco.

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, are on file at the San Francisco Housing Authority's office located at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, and will be available for inspection or issuance on or after February 9, 2004.

A processing fee of \$35.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK, or COMPANY CHECK payable to the SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY. CASH OR PERSONAL CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The Request For Proposals will also be available for downloading from the Housing Authority's website at www.sfha.org.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., a pre-proposal conference will be held at the Housing Development. Prospective bidders will meet at the lobby of JFK Towers at 2451 Sacramento St., in San Francisco. A pre-proposal conference will follow the site inspection to discuss any questions relating to this work.

A statement of proposal and the attachment forms must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. (PST) on the date of March 2, 2004. Questions regarding this solicitation for request for proposals may be directed to Jasmine Kuo, Project Manager, at (415) 715-5950, or Francis Eng, Senior Project Manager, at (415) 715-3267. Contact Carolina at (415) 715-3171 for Contract Documents.

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs. Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizens Advisory Committee -

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizens Advisory Committee consists of twenty-five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors as follows: two representatives with expertise in child-care; two representatives from tenant organizations; five representatives - one each from the Department of Human Services, the Housing Authority, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Child Care, the Recreation and Park Department, and the San Francisco Unified School District; sixteen representatives to include one each with expertise in the following: affordable housing, builders, environmental matters, health educators, immigrant services, language specialist, low income advocate, neighborhood concerns, non-profit clinics, parents, public housing tenants, public interest organizations, real estate, residential multi-dwellings, lead abatement and State preschools.

Members shall be appointed for a term of four years; provided that the 29 members first appointed shall, by lot at the first meeting, classify their terms so that nine shall serve for a term of two years, 10 shall serve for a term of three years, and ten shall serve for a term of four years.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541139

In the Matter of the Application of John Stewart Dolan for Change of Name. The application of John Stewart Dolan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Stewart Dolan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Jayde Dolan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273137-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cleaning Services 1338 Alabama Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rogelio M. Estanislao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273136-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: R & G Hauling 645 Excelsior Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273096-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Limo Express 474 19th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Alan Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272882-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: McGovern Consulting 2410 17th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christina P. McGovern. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272721-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frames on 3rd 2500 3rd Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carol Korynski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/12/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272940-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don's Barber Shop 2272 Chestnut Street San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/21/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/21/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272995-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mad Seven Records 616 Fell Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Mike Aknin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/22/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273110-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lavish Recordings and T-Art Enterprises 1630 Oakdale Ave. #B San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wilhelmina Lassandra Tearti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541158

In the Matter of the Application of Steven Bruce Modarai for Change of Name. The application of Steven Bruce Modarai for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steven Bruce Modarai has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Asad'ullah Qorosh' Modarai. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541159

In the Matter of the Application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for Change of Name. The application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alina Vakhutinskaya has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alina Vakutin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

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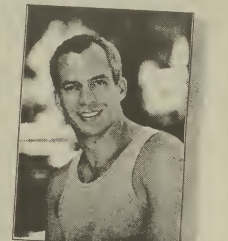
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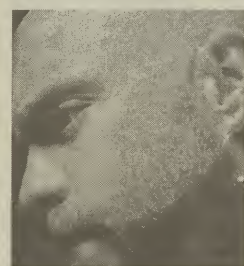
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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)]
capsules and tablets**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**General information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]. Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA
The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zoloff® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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INDICATION: SUSTIVA (efavirenz) is used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior.

There have been a few reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA (efavirenz) was the cause. Rash is another common side effect. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. If you or your child develop a rash, call your doctor right away.

Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime. Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.



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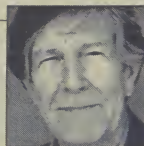
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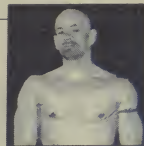
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page 33

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page 35



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page 45



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 8 • 19 February 2004



Angst-ridden search for love: Wood

Giving Wood

**Natalie Wood
reclaims
her tiara**

by Brandon Judell

Judy: All my life, I've been —
I've been waiting for someone
to love me, and now I love
someone. And it's so easy. Why is it so
easy now?

Jim: I don't know; it is for me, too.
Judy: I love you, Jim. I really mean
it.

Jim: Well, I mean it...
Who can forget Natalie Wood and
James Dean as Judy and Jim in *Rebel
Without a Cause*? Two dysfunctional
suburban teens with a closeted pal
named Plato (Sal Mineo), all trying to
make sense of a society where your
dad doesn't understand you, ignores
you, or worse, wears an apron in the
kitchen.

One gal's angst-ridden search for
sense and love is clearly the theme of
Gavin Lambert's critically acclaimed
new biography, *Natalie Wood: A Life*
(Knopf, \$25.95), a work that is spear-
heading a new appreciation of an ac-
tress whose star has dimmed a bit
over the years from critical neglect.

But if you just rewatch *Rebel*
(1955), *Splendor in the Grass* (1961),
West Side Story (1961), *Miracle on
34th Street* (1947) or the hyper-emo-
tional *All the Fine Young Cannibals*
(1960), you'll see what all the buzz
was once about. (It should be noted
that Natalie won a Golden Globe for
Most Promising Newcomer in 1957.
It was a three-way tie with Carroll
Baker and Jayne Mansfield.)

The bio, if you're not a big fan of
the Bolsheviks, the Winter Palace and
Nicholas II, begins with a bit too
much detail on Wood's ancestry. At
times you almost think this is a bio
about the Czar. There is a reason,
though, for this textbook data. Lam-
bert, who's also written about George
Cukor and Nazimova, is making a case

page 40 ►



Illustration by
P.L. Nunn, from
*Shonen: An American
Yaoi Anthology*

Yaoi/slash approaches

**A homoerotic
subculture
goes global**

by Mark Mardon

Avast subculture of homoerotic literature
and art has emerged recently via the Web
and independent print publishers. As San
Francisco-based Shonen Comics publisher/edi-
tor David L. Donnell affirms in the introduction
to Volume 1 of his lovingly produced *Shonen: An
American Yaoi Anthology* (www.shonencomics.com), when you start to dig into this subculture,
you quickly realize you could do a doctoral dis-
sertation on its layers of complexity, shading, and
pop-culture shaping.

With roots in Japanese *manga* (comics), Yaoi
and slash are arguably the hottest things going in
the thriving, underground queer lit and art
scenes. So far, they've made barely a blip on main-
stream radar, yet that low-flying invisibility seems
about to change.

Briefly, Yaoi (pronounced "yow-wee") are
"comics featuring gay men in romantic and erot-
ic stories," according to Donnell, yet they "are not
'gay comics' in the way we think of them in Amer-
ica." The comics you'll find in *Shonen*, created by
master artists/storytellers Ronda, Tammy Lee,
Lain Bradford, ScooterX, Tarot, Nuriko Wind-
chaser, David Ralston and Sunny, create endless
mystifying homoerotic fantasy worlds, but they
derive mainly from a non-gay perspective. In this,
they are like slash.

A useful definition of slash fiction comes from
Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia: "Slash
fiction is fan fiction, describing homosexual pair-
ings between media characters, often in explicit

page 36 ►

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Blushing brides, groovy grooms

San Francisco becomes the newest gay hitching post

by Roberto Friedman

Gosh, Out There knows so many gay friends and colleagues who got married last week at ye olde City Hall, we feel like we're the editrix of *Brides* magazine! Truth is, as folks from all over flew into SFO to get betrothed and Civic Center became one big media circus, we've never been so proud to live in San Francisco, the new frontier of the struggle for civil rights.

Queer historians of the future will no doubt puzzle over the United States in the early 21st century. Here we have the US government held captive by the most radically right-wing American Administration in history. Plans are afoot to add an amendment to the US Constitution to ensure that gay men and women remain second-class citizens — a sad case of actually using the Constitution to deprive people of their civil rights. We're still in the thick of a devastating epidemic in public health. Yet today, in the terrible year of 2004, queer people, art, music, culture and activism are thriving and changing the world.

In fact, there's a case to be made that gay culture has largely taken over the lackluster mainstream. Now the official tie-in book to the hit Bravo series *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* is out, subtitled *The Fab 5's Guide to Looking Better, Cooking Better, Dressing Better, Behaving Better and Living Better* (Clarkson Potter), and it's got blockbuster written all over it. *Martha Stewart*, you've been outpaced!

We get such timeless advice from fashion maven **Carson Kressley** as, "If someone stops you on the street and asks if you're a backup singer for *Shakira* — and you're on your way into the office — it's time to update your look." And sage words from stud stylist **Kyan Douglas**, "Here's a crazy idea: battery-powered nose-hair trimmer. Dude, it's power tools for your nostrils!" Also, foodie tips (**Ted Allen**), wine tips (same), decor (**Thom Filicia**) and etiquette (**Jai Rodriguez**).

Also available this month as part of the Fab 5's plan for world domination: the *Queer Eye* audiobook and the *Queer Eye* soundtrack, out on Capitol. (Think **Kylie Minogue**, **Junior Senior**, **Fischerspooner**! And uh-oh: **Elton John**!)



A new book, a new CD, a new audiobook: The Fab 5 take over the world.

'Queer Eye' fall-out

So we guess it had to happen: *Straight Plan for the Gay Man* is the new spoof series on Comedy Central, beginning Feb. 23, in which four straight comedians, self-styled as "**The Flab 4**," give gay men tips on passing as straight for a day "to aid them," according to the cable network, "in achieving their dreams." Honey, passing as straight ain't our dream.

Out There had never heard of the four straight comics (**Curtis Gwinn**, **Billy Merritt**, **Kyle Grooms**, **Rob Riggle**) before, but the gay men they take on as their pet projects in the first three episodes seem interesting enough. **Jonathan** is in retail (fashion) and has always wanted to pass as a blue-collar meatpacker (!); **Roger**, a yoga instructor, only wants to play in a pick-up basketball game (how poignant!); and **Stephen**, a singer/dancer, wants to try his hand at picking up the ladies. Okay, hold it right there. Heterosexual sport-dating: that's where we draw the line.

We watched the first ep so you don't have to. Fey **Jonathan**, renamed "J." or "Jay-bird" by the straight cabal, keeps bragging that his Upper East Side poodle parlor was "designed by a real Madison Avenue decorator," probably his ex, but to us (and probably to

most of the viewing audience), it's no great loss when the Flab 4 toss out his china teacup collection and Lalique fish to replace them with ugly plaid upholstery and a neon beer-sign. Despite a new wardrobe from the Salvation Army and lessons in how to strut like a macho man, Jay-bird doesn't remotely fool us. The solution is obvious. If J. wants to role-play a meatpacker so much, let him pick up all the appropriate gear on Canal St. and hang out at a sleaze bar until he finds someone to role-play a steer carcass.

Kush v. Bush

Last month, our buddy and Program Officer for Arts and Culture at the San Francisco Foundation **John R. Killackey** interviewed *Angels in America* playwright **Tony Kushner** at the

page 33 ►



Kushner dispels despair.

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THEATRE

Louisiana gumbo

Serving 'Okra' at Brava Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Anne Galjour bolted from Cajun Louisiana at the first chance, and has spent much of her adult life celebrating the life she left behind in a series of well-received solo shows. While her next theatrical project will be her first set away from her bayou roots, there is still a plate of *Okra* to be served.

"I'm feeling a little vulnerable," she said during a break in rehearsals at Brava Theatre Center, where *Okra* opens this week with a cast of five that does not include Galjour. "I'm happy with it, and think director David Dower and the cast are doing a beautiful job, but there was a time when I would have played all the characters myself."

In such solo pieces as *Hurricane* and *The Krewe of Neptune*, Galjour played multiple characters inspired by the folks back home in Cut Off, La. Though a little more than an hour south of New Orleans, it is a world apart, with its own traditions in food, language, music, and culture that date back to the 18th century, when the French-speaking Acadians were driven out of Nova Scotia by the English.

In *Okra*, while still having fun with the region's colorful idiosyncrasies, Galjour is digging deeper into some of the grimmer aspects of the Cajun life. "The racial aspect is a very important part of the story on multiple levels," she said. "If we're going to impart culture, let's impart all of it."

At the center of the play is matriarch Lillian Bourgeois, who has maintained an iron grip on her family but who is now starting to lose her grip on reality. One daughter has never left home, and a second daughter returns from New Orleans to prevent their mother from selling off the family assets. Adding to the darkly comic turmoil is a distant relative who arrives from France and a biracial neighbor who stirs up the play's race issues.

Galjour has happy memories of her life in South Louisiana, including the days spent on the family oyster-boat. "But I grew up knowing I was going to leave," she said. "I felt different, that I didn't belong there."

She went to college at Nicholls State in nearby Thibodaux, and that's where she began to flourish under the tutelage of her new gay friends. "Here I was this girl from the country, and a lot of the straight boys were kind of coarse for me. So I felt safe with my gay friends. These were the men who taught me how to speak, they gave me a sense of humor and sharp wit. And they took me to New Orleans to go to the gay bars. It was like Tennessee Williams-plus. Every one of those friends has since died."

She met husband John Mayne, now a movie and TV set-designer, at Nicholls State, and they headed right for San Francisco right after she graduated. She quickly got pregnant (son Ian is now a college senior), and that put her theatrical aspirations on hold.

"It was through my son that I



Solo artist Anne Galjour (left)

started reading folktales, and then I became a children's storyteller," Galjour said. "My work has a mythological aspect to it, which I attribute to the folktales, and that got fused with the Cajun culture."

Though she has performed her plays from New York to Seattle, she didn't find much interest when she tried to market herself in Louisiana. "My experience in that market was, 'Oh, look at her. She's making money acting like my Aunt Boo Boo. I think it's very exotic to

other places, and maybe all too recognizable to folks back there."

Galjour knows that the main reason she writes about life on the bayou is because she is no longer a part of it. "If I had never moved out here, I never would have started writing about Louisiana. It created a sense of longing in me, and my childhood became a treasure chest of memories."

Okra runs through March 14. More info at 647-2822 or brava.org.

Quick take

Is it possible to ruin a bad show? It is if the show is *Starlight Express* and the production is the mishap now at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. There was a good amount of fun and a simple-minded heart to the original London production that opened in 1984, but the chopped, diced, and downsized touring edition manages to eliminate just about every charm that the original had going for it.

The show's biggest gimmick, the roller-skate races among a fantasy train-world, have been turned into an annoying 3-D movie. The cast basically skates around in circles, and the hyped amplification makes you wonder what is live and what is pre-recorded.

Andrew Lloyd Webber has tried to jazz up his score with new songs without the fun of what they have replaced. With only one or two exceptions, the cast is without the skill to pull us into the lamebrain story. Director-choreographer Arlene Phillips' work here makes her efforts in the stage version of *Saturday Night Fever* suddenly look good.

Short scenes

The Feb. 24 performance of *The Lion King*, with an early 6:30 p.m. curtain, will include a pre-

show cocktail party at the Orpheum and a post-show dance party with the cast at Ruby Skye. It's part of the Broadway Gives Back program that in SF will benefit the LGBT Center and Project Open Hand. Tickets are \$45-\$125. Call 865-5388 or go to sfcenter.org.

Foothill Music Theatre in Los Altos Hills takes on the challenging *Candide*, the oft-revised Broadway musical that counts among its contributors Leonard Bernstein, Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker and Stephen Sondheim. The run is Feb. 20-March 14. Call (650) 949-7360 or go to acteva.com/go/foothillbox-office.

The letters detailing the memorable relationship between Virginia Woolfe and Vita Sackville-West are at the heart of *Vita & Virginia*, running Feb. 19-March 13 at Theatre Rhinoceros. Gemma Whelan directs Jennifer Grimes and Carolyn Cox in the title roles. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Marga Gomez will offer a workshop production of her latest work on Feb. 25 at the Marsh. *Los Big Names*, focusing on a dysfunctional Latino showbiz family, will open at the Kennedy Center in March. Call 826-5750 or go to themarsh.org.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage.com.

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The devil you know

'Say You Love Satan' in Berkeley

by Richard Dodds

Impact Theatre, which makes its home in the basement of a Berkeley pizza parlor, gets bragging rights for introducing a rising-star gay playwright to the Bay Area. Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's plays have mainly been seen on the East Coast, but *Say You Love Satan* displays the kind of keenly observant wit that can take him national.

In the 90-minute play, a bookish nerd named Andrew dumps his Mother Teresa-like boyfriend for a mysterious hunk he met at the Laundromat. Jack seems too good to be true. He can convince officious doormen at hot nightclubs that he's a star on the WB, he's read all of Dostoevsky in the original Russian, and he's great in bed. That he has 666 tattooed on his forehead is Andrew's first clue that the relationship will be a challenging one.

Yes, Jack admits, he is the son of Satan, but he is on a mission to undo the evil his father has brought to the world. Despite his friends' disapproval and his own lingering doubts, Andrew tries to make the relationship work until one of his ex-lovers is found dead in a manner that Jack had predicted. "He was a bad actor and wore leather inappropriately," Jack tells Andrew by way of explanation.

Aguirre-Sacasa has a sharp tal-



Eric Moore and David Ballog explore the demonic in *Say You Love Satan*.

ent for humorous dialogue with a depth beyond the immediate laugh. And in *Say You Love Satan*, the playwright is surprisingly successful at keeping a veneer of reality on the increasingly absurdist plot.

Director Joy Meads' production is low on frills, but finds the right tones for the playwright's humor. As the devilish Jack, Eric Moore, whose program bio offers no info beyond jokes, is a real find. He can move from funny to hot to sensitive to evil with polished ease. David Ballog's performance as the increasingly panicked Andrew is a little rougher,

but still lands many of the laughs. Good stuff, too, from John Atwood as an angry seraph, Ross Pasquale as the doomed actor in leather pants, and Brian Erlich as Andrew's doe-eyed boyfriend.

When Andrew discovers Jack's true identity, he asks if he really is gay. Satan pauses for a moment, thinks about it, and answers sincerely, "Bi-curious." ▼

Say You Love Satan will run at LaVal's Subterranean through March 13. Tickets are \$15. Call (510) 464-4468 or go to impacttheatre.com.

Trouble sisters

'Popping the Cherry' with Actors Theatre

by Richard Dodds

The title has a perky ring, but *Popping the Cherry* isn't a romp through sexual first times. The loss of virginity suggested in the title comes from a dark place that is kept secret from the audience until the final moments, but that has defined and scarred the relationship between two sisters for nearly a decade.

Karen Macklin's earnest drama, now having its world premiere at Actors Theatre of SF under Christian Phillips' direction, has the details of reality that can still fall into emotional monotones within its many scenes. The sheer number of scenes, 16 over its two acts, suggests the rhythms of a movie script that could provide punctuation through editing but that can't happen when the play must pause as major pieces of furniture are hauled on and off the stage.

The play opens with a flashback of Lucy imploring older sister Margo to again tell a comforting children's story, before we meet the characters in their current situations. Margo is now a successful computer programmer with a spacious Manhattan apartment and a budding lesbian relationship with her boss. Lucy, on the other hand, ran away from home six years ago and is a heavy-drinking, dope-smoking, chip-on-her-shoulder mess when she unexpectedly arrives at Margo's apartment.

Lucy introduces havoc into Margo's well-organized life,



Cast of Karen Macklin's *Popping the Cherry*: coming from a dark place.

threatening her relationship with her officious boss Wynona and poking into old wounds that she largely blames on Margo. Lucy is also at the beginning of a relationship with a sensitive poet-schoolteacher-bartender who doesn't understand why Lucy is so physically resistant to him. "I'm damaged goods," she shouts at one point. "I'm unfuckable."

Macklin displays a talent with honest-sounding dialogue that can go awry when trying to encapsulate philosophies into handy epigrams. "We all have baggage," says the poet-schoolteacher-bartender. "It just comes off different carousels."

The most compelling character is Lucy, played with a raw emotional edge by Sarah Engelman, and her jagged energies provide much of the play's momentum. Niki Yapo brings a centering

warmth to Margo, and a believable panic as her world begins to unravel under Lucy's influences.

Euclides Pererya has a friendly, bemused sensuality as Lucy's aspiring beau, while Linden Young provides an entertainingly brittle manner to the less convincing role of Wynona. Larissa Archer and Ann Hopkins ably complete the cast in smaller roles.

Popping the Cherry could use structural streamlining as well as stronger attention to what keeps domestic-drama dialogue compelling. But the play has an emotional staying power that confirms its worth. ▼

Popping the Cherry will run at Actors Theatre of San Francisco through March 7. Tickets are \$20. Call 296-9179 or go to actorstheatresf.org.

MUSIC

Still divine after all these years

Bette Midler at the Oakland Arena

by David Nahmod

It's hard to believe that it's been 32 years since the Divine Miss M recorded her first hit record; 34 years since she first hit record; 40 years since she performed at the Continental Baths in New York; and 40 years since she played Tzedel, the eldest daughter, in the original Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The lady has been around the block, and she's paid her dues. Bette Midler has become a bona fide legend.

At her concert last week beneath the dome of the Oakland Arena, Bette displayed a level of energy rarely seen in people of "a certain age." She captivated the sold-out crowd with song, dance and some of her wittiest banter ever.

I knew I was headed in the right direction when, early in the evening of Feb. 10, I boarded the Fremont-bound BART at Powell Street. LGBT people had taken over the train. All 10 cars! At the Coliseum station in Oakland, the disembarking queers resembled a Gay Pride Parade.

Midler is a gay icon, no question about it. The gay community first discovered her and put her before a national audience. She has always openly expressed her gratitude to us, and we showed up in record numbers for her Oakland appearance, the latest in her *Kiss My Brass* tour.

"I'm fabulous!" she screamed as she made her first entrance on a floating carousel-horse. "And



Proud of her connection to LGBT.

don't I look it! I don't know how I do it! I'm back, my Bay Area babies. I won't retire, and you can't make me!" There was screaming and cheering as she welcomed "the boys from the Castro."

Of course, it wasn't all fun and games. There were a few serious moments as the ever-gutsy Miss M tackled a few hot-button political issues. In her own inimitable style, she explained to her audience why the holy sacrament of marriage between a man and a woman needs to be preserved. We have seen so many heterosexual couples stand before the Lord in wedded bliss, and Bette showed us full-screen pictures of a few who have inspired us: Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob; Britney Spears and the dork; Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee ("They looked like they were in love in the video!");

and Liza Minnelli and David Gest ("At least we won't get a sex video out of those two!")

Stop the madness

Midler sang old and new songs, including her first, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," which she performed in synch with a 30-year-old giant-screen videoclip of herself performing the song on television. She paid tribute to her idol, Rosemary Clooney, in "Come on a My House" and "Hey There." But the evening's most stirring moment was a quiet, brand-new ballad called, simply, "September." This beautiful, thought-provoking take on the horrors of 9/11 moved a few in the audience to tears. With the simple lyrics, "Will we laugh? Will we cry? Will we hate or go down fighting? Will we keep reliving September?" Bette shows a deep understanding that our world leaders do not: It no longer matters who did what to whom, or who started violence first. It only matters that all the hate and killing stop on all sides.

Few performers are as proud of their connection to the LGBT community as Bette Midler. Few connect with their audiences as intimately as she. She is more than just divine, she may be the greatest living entertainer alive today. ▼

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The Fleet's In! (1934) by Paul Cadmus.

Out There

◀ page 30

opening plenary session of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in New York City.

"I'm very much worried right now," Kushner said. "I don't have to make any bones about it; if you know anything about my work, I mean I don't like **George W. Bush** and I don't like the Bush Administration, and I'm a progressive. This is a time of great despair and disorganization in the progressive community, a community many people who are involved in the arts find themselves in, and that's not an accident. Because artists and people who love the arts are, by nature, curious, inquisitive people; people who have to keep an open mind and heart, and find nothing human alien to them. I don't think that's somebody you're going to find in the Republican platform. It's not a conservative kind of enterprise."

"I'm just very anxious about

people not despairing in the face of a triumphant Right. My first play, *A Bright Room Called Day*, is set in the very beginning years of the Third Reich, when less despair might have actually derailed things. Especially before Hitler was appointed chancellor; he was never elected [either].

"I think that despair is our enemy. It's immensely important to get this man out of the White House next November. It's the most important thing."

Bette magic

Strange that the *Chronic* review of the **Bette Midler** show should gush so about the 12-ft. figures on Bette's show drop-curtain, then neglect to mention that they were clearly reproductions of the hot sailors painted so obsessively and with such droolingly observant detail by immortal gay artist **Paul Cadmus**.

There was the pansy flirting with a sailor; there were the three drunk sailors with a floozy. Very

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Striking it up with two old flames

Maestros Marriner and Blomstedt return to Davies Symphony Hall

by Philip Campbell

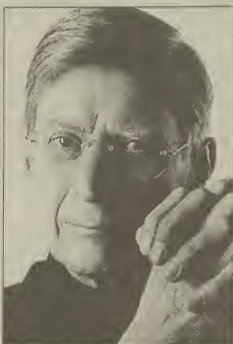
Two world-renowned conductors with strong ties to California have ruled from the podium at Davies Hall in recent weeks. Their concerts, designed to showcase individual strengths with the standard repertoire, also gave the San Francisco Symphony a chance to demon-

strate its ensemble skills.

With Michael Tilson Thomas away, there have been few surprises in programming, but in the heart of winter and the Symphony season, it is kind of nice to be treated to the musical equivalent of comfort food.

Sir Neville Marriner has been an international household name since 1959, when he founded the Academy of St. Martin in the

Fields. He retains his position as Artistic Director. Less well-known is his founding of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in 1969 and his subsequent decade as music director.



Herbert Blomstedt: commanding

Herbert Blomstedt is currently Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, honorary Conductor of the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo and Conductor Laureate of the SFS. His 10 years as Music Director here marked a time of orchestra-building, and earned him a special place in local cultural history.

Both men have built their careers probing the great works of the Western masters, and neither disappointed with their recent appearances. If there were no great insights or new interpretations on offer, at least they proved they haven't lost their command.

Marriner will return this week with an all-Mozart program. Last week, he got us in the mood with a fresh and lively go at Mendelssohn's *Scottish* Symphony. Using a smaller orchestra and springing the rhythms with a distinctly Mozartean grace, he reminded us of the considerable pleasure to be found in an old favorite.

The musicians could probably play this music with their eyes closed, but that didn't stop them from attentively following the conductor's clear beat and unfussy direction. The results were invigorating.

The same could not be said of



Sir Neville Marriner founded the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

the first half of the concert, a dim performance of a problematic work, Beethoven's Triple Concerto. The soloists seemed to be making their own statements, rather than playing as a unified trio. That is the challenge of the piece, and it is daunting, though not insurmountable.

The composer can be partly blamed, but the Concerto still works as an orchestral score with the requisite soloistic displays if the three players share an interpretive vision.

Only violinist Alexander Barantschik appeared completely in control. His playing was warm and full-toned, but also a shade severe. Cellist Michael Grebanier struggled with intonation, and seemed distinctly ill at ease. Pianist Orli Shaham played well enough, but her contributions were swallowed up by the acoustics of Davies Hall.

Fond rapport

The prior week, with the expected happy reunion of Blomstedt and the orchestra working

well, made for a more satisfying experience. The SFS and the old maestro are obviously still fond of one another, and the feeling of empathy produced a fine Schubert Symphony No. 5 and Brahms Fourth.

Blomstedt recorded the delightfully sunny Schubert with the orchestra for Decca during his tenure, and their shared interpretation hasn't changed. No problem — it remained an exercise in pure and elegant music-making.

Brahms is also a Blomstedt specialty, and once again, his colleagues were ready to cooperate. There were a few rather hard-driven moments, but the sense of grandeur and intensity was authoritative. It wasn't a sit-up-in-your-seat-with-renewed-wonder sort of experience (like some of Papa B's old Beethoven collaborations), but it came close enough.

I used to think my favorite Brahms symphony was whichever one I was listening to at the time. Blomstedt had me loving the Fourth Symphony best of all, with the warm pleasure that comes from encountering an old friend. ▼

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Simple pleasures

Chopin's 'Mazurkas' on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Polish-born, Paris-based Piotr Anderszewski's new Chopin CD (Virgin Classics) ranks with Yundi Li's for both depth of interpretation and sheer brilliance of pianism. Pianists who have been playing Chopin longer than Anderszewski has been on Earth have cannily avoided the composer's Mazurkas, which make up half of this CD. Their concision, lack of exhibitionism, rhythmic trickiness, and weird harmonic modulations, which worm their way through even the shortest of them, have made them a collective minefield even most "Chopin pianists" avoid.

The Mazurkas are like the



Bagatelles for Beethoven pianists: terrifyingly advanced simple music. Anderszewski's are the most persuasive and beguiling since Rubinstein's. Each is an organic whole, complete in itself, emotionally as well as rhythmically intact. The heartbreak in the F-Minor Op. 63, No. 2 is wrenching, if fleeting. The Third and Fourth

Ballades, Opp. 47 and 52, spread the same intimacy of expression over bigger-boned structures. The marvel is that these musical stories do have a kind of narrative line, with climaxes so cannily plotted they're on you before you realize it.

Being a Pole living in Paris couldn't hurt, but neither does it explain Anderszewski's feel for the Polonaises. Opp. 44 and 53, that are the most astounding pieces in this collection. The untrammelled power of the F-sharp Minor shrewdly deploys its wide-ranging sentiments. Cumulative power amassed over the disparate elements of a single, complex work is at the heart of Anderszewski's genius, and it peaks with a majestic, truly heroic "Polonaise héroïque." ▼

MUSIC

John Cage, captured

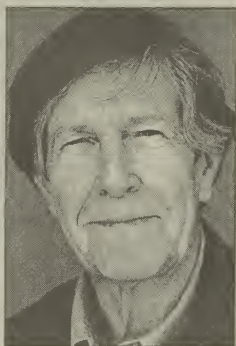
Seminal gay composer out on CD

by Tim Pfaff

London's recent celebration of the music of John Cage brought renewed attention to the seminal gay composer's work, which is always on the verge of slipping off the edge of the music establishment's attention span. It also elicited the usual barrage of inflated pronouncements, including the inevitable "[S]ometime in the future, John Cage will come to be seen as the greatest composer of the 20th century." Even if the outright brevity of the future doesn't nix that opinion, it's unlikely to happen because it's simply not true.

But I know the feeling. The time I had it most strongly was when Bay Area pianist Julie Steinberg vanquished an unlikely audience with a rapt account of Cage's *Sonatas and Interludes* for prepared piano. She was playing a Sunday afternoon recital at the Berkeley Piano Club for a mob of blue-hairs who wanted (and, in the first half of the recital, got) their salon-style Chopin. Then Steinberg begged their indulgence for the hour-long Cage work, promising that, if they stayed open to it, something quite marvelous and even spiritual might happen. What happened was as powerful as *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*. There was something like mass levitation throughout the room. It was all very woo-woo, only-in-Berkeley.

The *Sonatas and Interludes*, Cage's first major work for prepared piano — the regular, acoustic instrument, under and around whose strings pieces of wood, metal, and cloth are installed, and which is then played both from the keys and from inside, the pianist striking both strings and case — were composed between 1946 and '48, have been among the most enduring of



Cage: fusing Western & Eastern

Cage's compositions, and have been recorded surprisingly often. While the new ECM recording by Herbert Henck, which pairs them with his own *Festeburger Fantasiën*, two extended, improvised works, does not displace my two favorites, by Steinberg and Joanna MacGregor, it's a contender.

Cage's main musical goals in this composition were to fuse Western and Asian musical elements by exploiting the prepared piano's capacity to sound like drums and bells and a range of other instruments — and, in an anticipation of minimalism most minimalists overlooked, to create a sense of almost limitless spaciousness with spare, terse individual pieces. It's all sufficiently fascinating piece by piece, but its cumulative effect is far stronger. In the right hands, along the way, time in its ordinary sense evaporates, as it does in a good performance of *Parsifal*. Henck has the right hands.

Prep work

Piece for piece, he actually trumps the rival recordings. Even though Cage left precise instructions for preparation of the piano,

the sound is always different. The instrument Henck has so scrupulously customized yields a richer sound palette than most, heard in a superb recording (produced by the incomparable Manfred Eichler) that captures more of the overtones than usual. (All the flotsam and jetsam can sometimes have a dampening effect on the sound.) His attention to detail, and rhythmic articulation in particular, is astounding, yet loose, natural and unfussy.

The fleet pieces ("Sonata V" in particular) seem more nimble than usual, yet somehow also more substantial. Perhaps the best thing about Henck's playing is that he imbues it with an almost fanatical level of care without (and here's the essential Cageian part) letting it get too "serious." While this is less overtly playful music than Cage's for toy piano, it needs fundamental lightness to achieve the life that is the *sine qua non* of a true realization of this elevating work. Midway through, Henck's performance achieves lift-off. The final three sonatas are American Transcendentalism at its loftiest, and Henck's performances are truly transcendent.

In program notes reminiscent of Brad Mehldau at his most self-indulgent, Henck devotes pages to his description of the *Festeburger Fantasiën*, by his own account authentically improvised piano music, some of it for prepared piano and some of the rest featuring two pianos (in sections where he improvises to previously improvised recorded tracks). If the scree weren't enough, Henck then clobbers you with the music.

The same piano prowess is on display throughout, but Cage's genius is soon forgotten, or rather, missed. There are beautiful moments, particularly in the slow movements. Still, Henck has made Cage's genius an impossible act to follow. ▼

Hip-hop in b&w

by Gregg Shapiro

As the war of words rages on between Eminem and hip-hop magazine *The Source*, the questions raised by the duel are hard to ignore. What of the increasing presence of white rappers and hip-hop artists in what began as an almost exclusively black art-form?

More than 10 years before Eminem released his first major-label disc, The Beastie Boys infiltrated the hip-hop scene with their brand of frat-boy-meets-the-street party rap, forever changing the landscape. They paved the way for not only Eminem, but also white female rap units such as Luscious Jackson and Northern State. *Dying in Stereo* (Star Time), the eight-track debut disc by hip-hop trio Northern State (Hesta Prynn, DJ Sprout and Guinea Love) has the kinds of literary, musical, social and political references, all delivered in smart, slick rhymes, that would make Mike D, MCA and Ad Rock proud.

Reigning queen of the hip-hop house Missy Elliott has had an amazing run of success, surpassing both Lil' Kim and Foxy Brown, two female hip-hop artists

who emerged around the same time she did. In fact, Elliott's 2002 *Under Construction* disc has been put on a pedestal, where it remains the example by which all female hip-hop CDs that follow will be judged. That's unfortunate, because even Elliott herself runs the risk of suffering by comparison. Such is the case with *This Is Not a Test!* (Elektra), which was stuck with the daunting task of equaling the earlier album. The new CD sounds more like a continuation than an actual step forward.

The groundbreaking, Grammy-winning double-disc set *Speakerboxx/The Love Below* (Arista) by Southern hip-hop artists Outkast is as forward-thinking as it is reverent of the past. Andre 3000 and Big Boi of Outkast have created an altar to George Clinton and his Parliament and P-Funk All-Stars cohorts. Not only does Outkast polish up its soul-infused hip-hop act to a near-blinding shine, they also feel the funk in new and exciting ways. From the obvious singles "Hey Ya!" and "The Way You Move" to more suggestive tracks, Outkast has raised the stakes for themselves and everyone else.

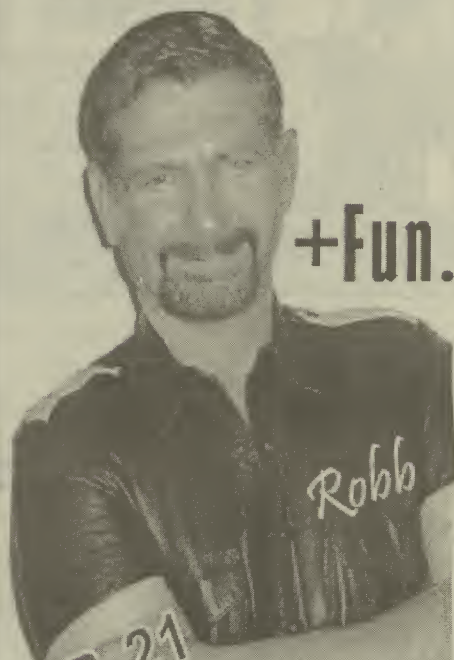
From his early days as a mem-

ber of The Fugees to his inevitable career as a solo performer, Wyclef Jean has been an artist to listen to and watch. Any questions about his contributions can be swiftly answered with one listen to his *Greatest Hits* (Sony Urban Music/Columbia), which features the smash "911" (with Mary J. Blige) and his cover of Bob Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door."

As if American rappers didn't have enough to contend with on their own turf, they have to deal with the encroachment of UK hip-hop performers. The female duo Floetry made a good impression with their 2002 debut disc *Floetic*, and have followed it up with a live disc that includes a bonus live DVD. As with many live albums, the studio gloss is dulled: unnecessary improvisation and such. The good news is that the three new studio songs which open the set, including "Wanna B Where U R" featuring Mos Def, are well worth hearing.

Those who liked the fast-paced, dialect-heavy rhymes of UK hip-hop act The Streets are almost sure to like *Boy in da Corner* by black British rapper Dizzee Rascal (Matador). Full of references to life on the streets and the

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Yaoi/slash

◀ Arts cover

detail, and very frequently outside the canon of the source. The name arises from the use of the 'Y' character in phrases such as 'Kirk/Spock' to describe the stories. ('Kirk/Spock' is widely thought to be the first type of slash fiction, first appearing in the 1970s in feminist fanzines.)

What this definition neglects to mention is that most slash fiction, along with most Yaoi and most slash art, is created by young women. They devise these fantasies to amuse themselves first and foremost, and in so doing, some Yaoi and slash artists have gained huge followings.

Aragorn/Legolas united!

I first learned of slash fiction in December 2002 from *SF Bay Guardian* "Techsploitation" columnist Annalee Newitz, in a piece titled "Harry Potter Gets Laid." Newitz explained that "the Harry Potter slash regime is currently in full flower. You don't have to believe me: Try Googling on 'Harry Potter slash' and see what happens."

I did just that, and was taken into a whole new literary and artistic universe, raw, real and imaginative, scary and exciting. Since Harry Potter doesn't really turn me on, I immediately Googled on "Smallville slash," and sure



Hobbits Frodo and Sam share an intimate moment in Middle Earth.

lar slash art on the Web, devoted primarily to *The X-Files* and *LOTR*. The work walks a fine line between kitsch illustration and fine art, and is sold as prints via

likenesses taken from actors Elijah Wood and Sean Astin, of Peter Jackson's powerful Tolkien film epic. There, too, were pairings of elves (Legolas/Elrond, Legolas/Haldir), elves and men (Legolas/Aragorn predominating), men on men (especially Aragorn/Boromir), and even elves and wizards (Legolas/Gandalf). The visages of Orlando Bloom as Legolas and Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn dominate the slash *LOTR* under-

world. I e-mailed Ned and Leny to ask if they've had any problems with the *LOTR* or *X-Files* producers. None so far, they replied, although they know people have reported them, hoping to close down their site.

Have they heard from any of the *LOTR* actors?

"We heard that Ian McKellen recommended our website in an article in *UK GQ*," Leny replied. "We've never been able to find the article, so I don't know how true that is. I know a girl showed Dominic Monaghan and Billy Boyd a Merry/Pippin picture we did. She actually put up a webpage about it [www.geocities.com/cheeky_hobbit]. Judge for yourself, they don't look too upset by it." ▼

The Theban Band create the most popular slash art on the Web, devoted to The X-Files and LOTR.

enough, there were endless Lex Luthor/Clark Kent pairings, from super-sweet to super-nasty. Much of this sort of writing is high-schoolish, but in the well-organized, self-policed world of slash fiction and art, the cream of the crop tends to rise to cult status.

It was when I Googled on "slash *LOTR*" (*Lord of the Rings*) that my mind really blew. The first link took me to The Theban Band, creators of the most popu-

lar slash art on the Web, devoted primarily to *The X-Files* and *LOTR*. The work walks a fine line between kitsch illustration and fine art, and is sold as prints via

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The Aragorn/Boromir embrace you didn't see on the big screen.

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Hip-hop on CD

◀ page 35

complexities inherent in relationships with the opposite sex (think of how much easier things would be if everyone were gay), Dizze Rascal is the latest performer to sample '80s rocker Billy Squier ("Big Beat") on his catchy "Fix Up, Look Sharp."

British DJ Just Jack's debut *The Outer Marker* (TVT) is making its domestic bow. The remix samples 10 CC among others on his full-length album, giving it a sumptuous texture that bears repeated listens.

Minneapolis punk rocker-turned-rapper Sean Daley of Atmosphere seems intent on pissing off a lot of people with his album *Seven's Travels* (Epitaph/Rhymesayers), and I'm not just talking about the ones who left answering-machine messages on the track "Suicidegirls." There are hip-hop fans who question his credibility, while others celebrate the way he has crossed genres. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Shocking tableaux

Kienholz works in focus in SF gallery

by Will Shank

Ed and Nancy Reddin Kienholz, *The Useful Art and The Ponder Series* at the Braunstein/Quay Gallery, through March 13

Ed Kienholz was the author of some of the most outrageous works of art of the 20th century. His "The Beanery" (1965), one of the great treasures of Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum, is an icon of greasy mid-century pop culture, with its clock-faced people and its stinky, reconstructed interior of a seedy Hollywood dive. LA County Museum of Art's "Backseat Dodge" peeks into a lurid sexual encounter in an automobile, and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (1991) is perhaps the most graphic depiction of political *quid pro quo* ever fantasized: a circle of pantless politicians perform a ring-around-the-rosie with an American flag while each strokes the penis of the guy behind him.

From 1972 on, Kienholz collaborated with his wife Nancy Reddin Kienholz to create direct, tantalizing, shocking tableaux vivants. Their influence on the evolution of contemporary American sculpture cannot be overestimated. The current show at Braunstein/Quay features some of the last works created by the husband-and-wife team before Ed's death in 1994. The *Useful Art* and the *Ponder* series prove that the creative couple from Hope, Idaho, had lost none of their spunk toward the premature end of his life at age 67. Enormous turds extruded from a TV screen are a recurring image in the irreverent opus Kienholz, and the "Useful Art No. 1" of 1992 gives the viewer a scatological eyeful on the top of a chest of drawers "Useful" indeed is a working toaster atop a metal cabinet, although the ickiness of the surface would make it seem more in place in a North Beach beatnik café than in one's kitchen. Nor would the price tag make you confuse it with mere merchandise; the Kienholz scul-



"Useful Art No. 1" (1992), mixed-media assemblage

tures start at five figures.

Hearts and minds

Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the gallery show is the chance to see Nancy without Ed. In some ways more political than her late husband, the widow Kienholz shows that her work holds its own, steadily, in the aftermath of the Ed Kienholz tidal wave. Her large-scale assemblage "The Heartland" (1996-98) alone is worth the trip to Clementina St. A sepia snapshot of a farmer's family, posed frontally in front of a barn à la "American Gothic," has been blown up to life-size, altered by the artist so as to include a reversal on traditional *trompe-l'oeil*, with three-dimensional elements so artfully entwined with the flat image that it's at first glance difficult to sort them out.

If you wait until the last week of the Braunstein/Quay installation, you can run from there to SFMOMA's upcoming installation called *Pop!* (A budget-saving move to feature permanent-col-

lection works rather than traveling blockbusters, the exhibition opens on March 6 and runs through the fall.) The Kienholzes' rarely exhibited "Night Clerk at the Young Hotel" (1982-83) will be part of that exhibition. Acquired in 1984, this installation is a chunk of an actual derelict hotel in Spokane that was saved by the artists before its demolition in 1981, and adapted by the addition of a single figure à la George Segal. A dirty clock-radio plays country-and-western music, breaking through the imaginary screen of fiction and fact, past and present, while the lonely clerk, cast from a live model, waits silently for customers, reading a sleazy tabloid paper. When has there been such a profane poet? ▼

Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 430 Clementina St. Info: (415) 278-9850, www.bquayg.com
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"The Heartland" (1996-98), mixed-media assemblage

Terrible events in broad daylight

Cross-dressing 'Osama' evades the Taliban in new Afghan film

by David Lamble

I wish God hadn't created women," a mother cries out in the middle of the night in *Osama*, a harrowing new feature that is the first Afghan film completed since the fall of the Taliban. Having lost her job when the Taliban closed the local hospital, the woman is faced with a dire dilemma: either obey the edicts of the religious police that forbid women from venturing out in public without a legal male escort, or risk starvation for herself, her mother and her 12-year-old daughter.

It's the grandmother who discovers a solution. Telling an ancient story that holds the genders to be equal under the sign of the rainbow, the grandmother cuts the young girl's long braids and

declares her to be a boy. Trembling with fear that she will be discovered and killed by the Taliban, Osama walks out the next morning with her mother, who secures her a job at a small food shop, reminding the shopkeeper that he and her late husband served together in the war against the Russians.

Inspired by a true story of a young Afghan girl who concealed her sexual identity in order to fool the Taliban into permitting her to be educated with the boys, *Osama* follows a recent trend in Middle Eastern films (including *Baran* and *Daughters of the Sun*) of employing cross-dressing as a metaphor for social upheaval. *Osama's* director Siddiq Barmak raises the stakes and has us trembling right along with the girl, played with heartbreaking pathos by newcomer Marina Golbahari

(whose boy drag makes her look like a teenage Gertrude Stein). Every step she takes, Osama knows her body may give her away.

Forced along with the town's real boys to attend the Madrassa (a religious school that doubles as the Taliban's military recruitment center), Osama is uncertain how to perform the daily prayers; at recess, the boys tease her about her feet looking too girlish. In the film's oddest scene, Osama hides in a doorway while a boisterous group of barely prepubescent boys is instructed in how to clean their genitals by a local mullah. In the upside-down, slightly Orwellian world of the Taliban, rituals bordering on pedophilia acquire a religious stamp of approval.

Blue mass

Director Barmak, who claims that he was turned on to filmmaking by a childhood screening of *Lawrence of Arabia*, displays a fluid and witty ability to choreograph large crowds. In the opening shots of the film, the women of Kabul stage a demonstration demanding permission to work, the mass of anonymous bodies, covered in blue burqas, recalling Hitchcock's umbrella-wielding crowd in *Foreign Correspondent*. Later, as the boys whirl through their barren playground with the fury of tiny dervishes, Osama's attempt to match their energy re-



Osama (Marina Golbahari) must dress in boy drag and attend the Madrassa.

sults in her being trapped up a leafless tree. Examined by a Taliban religious cop, Osama's menstrual blood flows out of her boy's underwear. She is literally betrayed by her sex.

As with Hitchcock, the most ordinary events take on sinister implications: a small barking dog, a woman's exposed feet as she rides on the back of a bicycle, an old man peering through the lens of a videocamera before ordering the cameraman's execution. This last scene is especially revealing, given that director Barmak's own

short films were destroyed by Taliban censors. Terrible things happen in broad daylight under a bright if pitiless sun.

A classic tragedy, *Osama* puts a spotlight on a feudal society where few good deeds or good people go unpunished. At the film's end, images of an old man relaxing into a hot-tub and a little girl skipping rope are as heartbreaking as anything in the canon of modern cinema. ▼

Opens Friday.

This Harvey is the devil

by David Lamble

Down and Dirty Pictures: Miramax, Sundance and the Rise of Independent Film by Peter Biskind; Simon & Schuster, \$26.95

A new book asks some rather pointed questions about just what today's independent films are independent of. Peter Biskind's previous volume, *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls: How the Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll Generation Saved Hollywood*, skewered the pretensions to virtue of that first class of film-school grads who stormed the ruins of the studio system in the 1970s, only to lose their way in a fury of fast living. His new one, *Down and Dirty Pictures*, contains the same almost-purple prose style, but has a serious purpose cunningly concealed inside the fairy tale of a Gotham frog prince and a mountain-dwelling Prince Charming.

According to Biskind, the frog prince, aka Harvey Weinstein, tried to kiss virtually every Cinderella filmmaker wannabe who came to the ball, the ball being mountain prince Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival. This time, the gossip details not tawdry sex lives, but rather a fight for the soul of the new indie film business.

Food metaphors abound in Biskind's account of Weinstein. "The assistants learned to buy Coke by the case, cigarettes by the carton, candy bars by the gross. Watching him feed was an experience not easily forgotten. It brought to mind the great scenes of movie gluttony — Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*, where a ravenous diner explodes like an overblown balloon." Like the great white shark in *Jaws*, Harvey would eat anything. Novice filmmakers would start to sweat in meetings with him: he might eat their film, or he might eat them.

Harvey was the devil. He came to know the erogenous zones of film producers better than they



knew themselves. In 1981, Weinstein lusted after the rights to *The Secret Policeman's Ball* (SPB), a film, featuring the Pythons, shot in London as a benefit for Amnesty International. SPB's fast-talking British producer, Martin N. Lewis, was astonished when Weinstein snarfed his film up like deli takeout. A year later, Weinstein still hadn't released SPB, and now Harvey was clamoring for the sequel. "He browbeat and guilt-tripped me. At the end of it, I was completely drenched in sweat. I thought, 'That was the most intense sex I've ever had in my life.' It felt horrible and pleasurable at the same time."

Capri stun

Ironically, it was gay filmmakers, the leading edge of the early-'90s New Queer Cinema, who would most feel Harvey's hot breath down their throats. When Todd Haynes' *Velvet Goldmine*, a complicated homage to the glam-rock movement, suffered from the not-so-tender mercies of a Weinstein-ordered re-edit, Haynes was determined "Harvey Scissorhands" wouldn't get to touch his Oscar-bound next feature, *Far from Heaven*. Haynes was literally trembling when producer Christine Vachon insisted that he talk to Harvey. "Here I was in Portland, in my beautiful old Arts-and-Crafts house, and I had just

next page ►

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Fairy tales

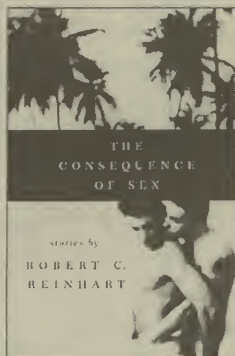
by Robert Julian

The Consequence of Sex by Robert C. Reinhart; Alyson, \$14.95

Robert Reinhart's collection of short stories, *The Consequence of Sex*, revolves around the sexual peccadilloes and practices of gay men. And in the dozen stories presented, Reinhart manages to cast a wide net; the variety of this third-person storytelling is one of the strengths of this work.

The opening story, "The Boys of Merida," is a strong and evocative tale of an aging, obese Los Angeles hairdresser who spends every January in Mexico renting young boys. After 15 years of annual visits, disaster strikes when he is caught *en flagrante* one January afternoon by the Mexican police. Yet Reinhart manages to elevate this predictable denouement with a surprisingly happy ending.

Many of the stories deal with the sexuality of older men, yet each possesses an original point of view. However, Reinhart's prose



needed more attention from his editor to eliminate the repetition in several stories of "Tom, Dick and Harry" as a metaphor, and the recurrence of the phrase "Least said, soonest mended." At the risk of waxing Forrest Gumpish, *The Consequence of Sex* is like a box of prose chocolates. Although not a meal, each story is a tasty morsel, something a reader can enjoy quickly and easily without expending too much time or energy. ▼

Natalie Wood

◀ Arts cover

here for Natalie's mother's manic drive. Russian immigrant Maria Stepanova Gurdin's unbridled ambition helped make her daughter both a star and an emotional mess who dated both bisexual and gay men such as director Nicholas Ray and actor Nick Adams.

Lambert, an open homosexual himself for decades, wrote both the novel and the screenplay of *Inside Daisy Clover* (1965), which is how he became friends with Natalie. She starred as the child star who winds up married to a homosexual played by Robert Redford. Gayness was toned down by the studio, but not in Natalie's bio. It's bristling with it.

Her secretary was Mart Crowley, who went on to write *Boys in the Band*. She once almost starred as a closeted lesbian in *Cassandra at the Wedding*. Then there are all the guys who used Natalie as a beard. Even her two-time spouse Robert Wagner has been accused of being bisexual. Some even spread the rumor that he was making love to actor Christopher Walken the night Wood drowned.



Wagner, argues that Wagner is as straight as a ruler, and Wood's death was an accident. He even gets Wagner to address the queer intimations. The stories of his gay sexcapades apparently all started when he became the client of the Famous Artist agent Henry Willson, who had a "reputation as a sexual predator."

"Over the years," Wagner notes, "I've been linked sexually with Jeffrey Hunter, Burt Lancaster, Dan Dailey, Clifton Webb, and my God, even Clark Gable." Lambert adds in his own words, "[Wagner]

could shrug the rumors off because he felt secure about his own sexuality, and like Natalie had many gay friends throughout his life."

"But why did Wood have so many gay men in her life?" I asked the author over the phone last week. From his West Coast home with its several living rooms, Lambert responded in a delicious British accent: "I have two answers to that. One is specific to her, and the other is specific to a lot of actresses. Actresses like gay men because they know there's going to be no problem of them making a pass, and therefore they feel that they are not being used and all that stuff."

"In Natalie's case," he continued, "she grew up in a drastically dysfunctional family, feeling like an outsider, and she responded across the board not only to gay people as outsiders, but to anybody who felt alienated in some way because of their life experiences. She particularly responded to gays because they were very entertaining about it, which some of the others were not. She didn't like self-pity or anything like that. What she did like was people who would say the unconventional things and be entertaining about it. She was a great shitkicker, and in part, gays tend to be, too, and she liked that." ▼

Guilt by association

Lambert, who wrote this biography with the cooperation of

Down and Dirty

◀ previous page

spent the night with my friend making out, and suddenly I'm on the phone with Harvey Weinstein,

who's in Capri, and is screaming at me and calling me names like I've never been spoken to by anyone in my life. It was brutal."

Columbia University film grad Mark Christopher would pay the highest price for becoming a plan-

et in the Harvey solar system. Coming off highly-acclaimed gay shorts (*The Dead Boys' Club*, *Alkali Iowa*), Christopher had his feature script for *54*, an autopsy of the New York disco palace, greenlighted for a shoot in Toronto. "Harvey smelled money. Instead of an edgy film by a first-time queer director, *54* was going to be Miramax's summer blockbuster. Weinstein test-screened *54* in a mall on Long Island early in 1998. Because the film had never been intended for mallrats from the 'burbs, the filmmakers were upset. Says a source, 'When a movie tests badly in the malls, nobody thinks, 'Okay, we tested it in front of the wrong people.' They think, 'We made the wrong movie.'"

Christopher, who declined to be interviewed, has yet to emerge from the crash of *54*.

Oddly, it's Robert Redford, whose Sundance Institute and Film Festival made indie filmmakers believe in Santa Claus, who turns up missing in action. Biskind argues that the actor was a man who never liked to say no, a man whose passive/aggressive managerial style and frequent absences to pursue his film career caused Sundance to fail to reinvent itself.

Redford associate Barbara Maltby described what made a close encounter with "Bob" so alluring but also so devastating. "When the focus of his gaze is on you, you feel like you've won the golden ring. But when his gaze moves off you, you're forgotten, because he's on to the next person. This is extremely hard not to take personally, and sometimes it is personal. You have not lived up to expectations, his. But not only have you failed him, you've failed yourself, because you've been snookered by your own narcissism, thinking you're special, more special than the hundred people who came before you. So there's a double sense of failure. He's very Clintonesque." ▼

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MUSIC

What a mad tea-party!

David Del Tredici's 'Vintage Alice' on CD

by Jason Serinus

Until now, the great gay composer David Del Tredici hadn't seen a recording of his music released since 2001's *Secret Music* on the lamentably departed CRI label. Del Tredici is thus delighted at the unexpected issue of his 1972 *Vintage Alice*, "A Fantascene on 'A Mad Tea-Party' from Louis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and other Victorian materials." Paired with earlier songs to poetry by James Joyce, the music appears as part of DG's prestigious 20/21 series.

Recorded between 1993 and '97, the performances have seen the light of day thanks to their conductor, Oliver Knussen, who exercised one of the options in his DG contract to share Del Tredici's music with a wide audience. The Asko Ensemble conducted by Knussen plus Del Tredici on piano variously accompany soprano Lucy Shelton.

Vintage Alice is one of many Alice settings from the 67-year-old Del Tredici. He won the 1980 Pulitzer Prize in music for "In Memory of a Summer Day," ex-

tracted from his longer work, *Child Alice*. Works including *An Alice Symphony*, *Final Alice* and *Haddocks' Eyes* reflect his ongoing fascination with Carroll's fantasy.

Conversation with Del Tredici, speaking from his New York City home, naturally turned to his *Gay Life*. The symphonic cycle for baritone and orchestra to texts by Paul Monette, Allen Ginsberg and others was commissioned by San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and premiered in 2001 to mixed reviews.

Gay Life's reception hardly equaled the censorship that greeted the aborted June 21, 2002 debut of Del Tredici's *Wondrous the Merge* at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. That work's text, part of a 20-minute string quartet that includes James Broughton's explicitly erotic poem of the same name in mostly spoken form, was deemed too risqué for Michigan. Only the non-controversial aria plus its instrumental music were performed.

"Though they told me that the poem's language was too sexually explicit for their audience, it appears that old-fashioned homophobia was the root of the trou-

ble," said Del Tredici. "For a pillar-of-the-community married man like Broughton to realize and act upon his long-repressed homosexuality, as his autobiographical poem depicts, is the right wing's worst nightmare."

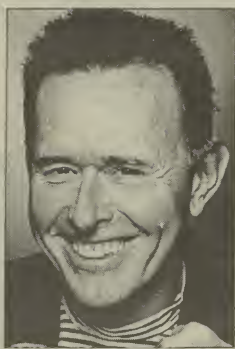
Open book

Gay Life is another story. Some gay critics found themselves shocked or embarrassed by the composer's openness. Some felt that public acknowledgment of gay intimacies is best avoided.

"I labor to do the opposite," declared a chuckling Del Tredici. "If you write music called *Gay Life*, you want to celebrate what was supposedly uncelebratable in the past. I'm very much for having all my secrets up-front, as I've always done. Be it alcoholism or being gay, they're part of me."

"I'm tired of the way composers' lives are prettied up with all the controversial aspects taken out. The books on Copland, until recently, didn't even mention that he was gay. In general, the gay issue is so closeted over in biographies."

"More importantly, I want to create a body of music that is ex-



Del Tredici: all his secrets up-front

PLICITLY gay so that it will exist. Once it exists, there it is. Deal with it!"

Del Tredici's other gay works include many songs for piano and voice. Three songs from the cycle *Brother*, set for vocalist John Kelly, appear on the *Secret Music* disc. The big cycle that no one will perform is called *My Favorite Penis Poems*. It ends with Allen Ginsberg's "Please Master," an extraordinarily erotic S/M duet for baritone and soprano.

"We were going to do it at the Museum of Sex in New York — I thought it would be a perfect venue — but they don't really have a concert space. It's amazing how groups shy away from anything having to do with explicit-

ness, be it gay or simply sexual."

Which brings us back to *Vintage Alice*. It, too, caused controversy, because it was one of the first tonal works the neo-Romanticist dared to offer a musical establishment that considered the tonality of the three Bs passé.

"I discovered Lewis Carroll's sentiment, his world of wit and whimsy, demanded another kind of music. Without realizing it, I got tonal," Del Tredici explains that his wit and whimsy had always been there, but he had never thought to put it into his music until he discovered, in *Alice*, "a way to let out my humor into music." Listeners will especially enjoy the rhythmic distortions that accompany the Queen's declaration, "She's murdering the time."

Although Del Tredici is currently most interested in writing chamber music, he remains "always on the lookout" for settings that express sexuality and gay poetry. He's especially interested in the poetry of Antler, a gay poet who writes "in the Ginsberg style: very erotic, very real, and inadvertently shocking because he uses language not in the poetic canon."

Forthcoming debuts include the April premiere of *My Goldberg*, with pianist Bruce Levinston in Alice Tully Hall. *Gotham Glory: Four Scenes from New York*, a commission from Carnegie Hall written for gay pianist Anthony De Mare, receives its premiere in Zankel Hall in March '05. "Fantasy on 'Nobody Knows'" just received a world premiere in upstate New York, and the must-hear *Dracula*, performed at last summer's West Coast Cabrillo Music Festival, just attacked Denver. Add in Kalamazoo, Dallas, Fort Worth, Toronto, and Waco, and you're up to date until Del Tredici strikes again. ▼

Pillow talk and lighter lyrics

New and unusual music by Torsten Rasch & Phil Kline

by Stephanie von Buchau

I can't say I approached *Mein Herz Brennt*, a contemporary song cycle by Torsten Rasch set to poems from Dresden's Gruppe Rammstein (Deutsche Grammophon), or *Zippo Songs*, a cycle by Bang on a Can's Phil Kline (Cantaloupe), set to lyrics inscribed on the lighters of Vietnam vets, with much hope of discovering great art. Surprisingly, both albums are totally enjoyable, in totally different ways.

Despite its rock origins (Rammstein is a heavy-metal industrial band), *My Heart Burns* turns out to be lushly beautiful in the late Romantic style of Erich Korngold. A cycle of nine pieces (can't call them all "songs" since some are intoned by an actress, and one is purely instrumental), *Mein Herz Brennt* was written for the Dresden Symphony by theater and film composer Rasch, to the poems of Rammstein punk rocker Till Lindemann.

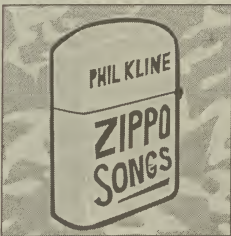
The world premiere was in Dresden last November, and the album immediately became a bestseller in Germany. Part of this success, possibly the only reason the work will succeed in America, is due to the gorgeous, "black diamond" bass-baritone voice of Rene Pape (pronounced Pa-peh). You remember him at San Francisco Opera a couple of years ago: tall, hunky and handsome, with a seductive sound you wanted to go to bed with? Of course, he hasn't returned here, so if you've been hankering for more of that sound, here is his first solo recording.

Also recommendable to readers of the *BAR* is the lack of conventional boy-girl romance in the lyrics. A lot of the poems are as gloomy and despairing as the current Germanic stage-direction trend at SFO. "Mother" (sung by

Pape) is a terrible cry of anguish and revenge from an alien, a thalidomide child, an in-vitro baby, or just someone who was not allowed to suckle at his mother's breast.

"Longing" (sung by Pape and spoken by actress Katharina Thalbach) uses geographic imagery to discuss searching between the legs of the (unspecified) beloved. And make what you will of a song called "Sailor" (sung by Pape) that begins: "Come in my boat/A storm is rising" and continues: "Come in my boat/Longing becomes the helmsman."

This is ripe stuff, and the cycle ends with an orchestral piece provocatively titled, "Pillow Talk-Variations on Rammstein." John Carewe conducts the excellent Dresden Symphony. The *duduk*, a haunting Armenian wind instrument used in "Longing," is played by Arai Bakhtikyan. Needless to say, none of this matters once you hear Pape's molten vocalism.



Lighter brigade

If Pape's voice "is" the message of *Mein Herz Brennt*, the *Zippo Songs* could be spoken and still have the same wallop. Apparently, inscribed Zippo lighters have become collector's items. GI wit may not be deep, but it is as pointed as a bayonet. My favorites include, "If you got this off my dead ass/I hope it brings you the same luck it

brought me" or, "We are the unwilling/Led by the unqualified/Doing the unnecessary/For the ungrateful."

Kline, who is most noted for his electronic caroling forays in NYC with a choir of boomboxes, here provides the barest minimalist accompaniments and ambient

electronics. Singer Theo Bleckmann drones on, accompanied by percussion, violin and Kline on guitars. The album begins with "Three Rumsfeld Songs" (cribbled from Pentagon briefings in 2001-03), during which the Secretary of War scares your pants off with his

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Marriage & poets

What an extraordinary week it's been for everybody! To be watching network and cable TV news and seeing hundreds of gay and lesbian couples lined up in the rain and wind outside of San Francisco City Hall, awaiting their vows and certificates—I couldn't help but feel a wee bit of LGBT patriotism! Kudos to Mayor Gavin Newsom for taking on the gay-marriage challenge at a key moment in American history.

Meanwhile last week I had one of those only-in-San Francisco moments when I headed to City Lights Bookstore in North Beach for a scheduled reading by legendary queer Beat poet Harold Norse, who now well into his 80s has just released *In the Hub of the Fiery Force: Collected Poems 1934-2003* (Thunder's Mouth Press, New York). The fat paperback volume (620 pages) includes some 125 pages of previously unpublished poems. If you've never encountered Norse's work, you have a treat in store. The poems are gems.

Alas, Norse didn't make the reading, and when people started showing up, all we could find out was that Norse had been nervous about the reading, suffered a heart arrhythmia, and had been taken by friends to the hospital. Apparently he's okay now.

Poet types milled about in the bookstore and hung out on outside on the sidewalk. Among them were writer Eric Wilcox of the SF Buffoons, who had the new Norse volume in hand and seemed most distraught at his hero's no-show. With him was another young man, also named Eric, and an older gentleman who introduced himself to me as Remy Charlip, at which I replied: Oh yes, of course, you're a living legend!

As his website says, Remy is "an author and illustrator of 27 picture books for children... His most recent publications include *Arm in Arm* and *Hoaroy For Me*, each has been reissued by Triecyle Press in Berkeley... He is also a dancer, choreographer, playwright, stage director, set and costume designer, singer, songwriter, lecturer, and teacher. Charlip's diverse career includes performing with John Cage and Merce Cunningham for 11 years."

A bit of synchronicity occurred in our meeting. I'd been reading a wonderful new biography, *Factory Made: Warhol and the Sixties* by Steven Watson (Pantheon Books), and in it on page 58 is a photograph of Remy in Central Park along with Rufus Collins and Billy Linich in 1959—part of the Warhol gang—and so Remy and I got to talking about the book and how fine it is. We ventured into the Northbeach Night to drown our woe over our missing muse, but instead of sorrow there was much merriment and camaraderie in our little coterie. Remy read from *The Hub* as we refreshed ourselves first in an old Italian restaurant, then in a corner ice-cream/pastry shop. Poetry lives on in North Beach!

Remy is scheduled to read from his latest children's books at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, at Bernal Heights Branch Library, 503 Cortland Ave. (near Moultrie). ▼



Catch "Studbelt" and other steamy images in Juanita MORE!'s *Booty Call* exhibit at Frank Eddy. See Thursday.

Eri

Steven Vaschon's 'Rear View' @ Magnet

Magnet will host a reception for local photographer Steven Vaschon, who will be displaying images from his book *Rear View* at Magnet through the end of March. Vaschon, a native of Hawaii now living in San Francisco, is now releasing *Rear View*, his debut collection of black-and-white photographs featuring male backsides. It's pretty impressive work, given that Vaschon has known how to use a camera for only a year or so. *Rear View*, while titillating, is a collection appropriate for the coffee table, not one that needs to be hidden under a bed. Much of the imagery is standard fare—models lolling around in lush surroundings, opening French doors, and frolicking in bathtubs. Come meet the artist and see the magnificent *Rear Views*. Free. 7-9pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: 581-1600; www.magnetsf.org

Third Annual Black LGBT Film Fest @ CAAAC

The Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA) presents the Third Annual San Francisco Black Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Film Festival, "Honoring, Respecting, and Celebrating Our History," February 20-22. Asproxx. 25 films depicting Black LGBT culture attempt to educate filmgoers on the issues of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, homophobia, racism, love and the struggle for equal rights and freedom among people of color (especially among African Americans) in the United States and the African Diaspora. \$25 opening reception, \$9 for 2-hr. screening block. Center for African and African American Art and Culture, 762 Fulton St. Info: 346-0199 or 615-9945; www.bcoa.org/filmfest.htm

'Guilty' @ The Stud

Opening night party! "Guilty," where no one is innocent. A "bastard pop rock electro hip hop whatever party" presented by DJs Adrian, the Mysterious D, and Suppositori Spelling, with DJ Mr. Anthony, plus sexy go-go dancers, \$1 "Guilty Pleasure" shots, free CD giveaways every week and more. Champagne toast at midnight! \$5. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison.

'Cavalia' @ Giants Parking Lot B

"Cavalia: A Magical Encounter Between Horse and Man," a spectacular multimedia extravaganza created by Normand Latourelle, one of the founders of Québec's famed *Cirque du Soleil*. Featuring more than 60 performers, including 33 horses, riders, aerialists, acrobats and dancers, as well as

musicians, a vocalist, and famous European "horse-whisperer" Frédéric Pignon and his wife, trainer and rider Magali Delgado. In *Cavalia*, horses cavort with acrobats, aerialists and entertainers in front of a constantly changing background projected on 200-ft. wide screen. Staged in North America's largest touring tent rising some 100-ft. high in Giants Parking Lot B, adjacent to SBC Park, 1250 4th St. Audience seated in proscenium style facing a single stage, 160-ft. wide, allowing horses enough space to gallop at full speed, at times unfettered by bridles or halters. Tix: 1-866-999-8111; www.cavalia.net

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FreeFall Dance Theater @ JSC

AIRSpace Artist in Residence Nawaaz Ahmed and FreeFall DanceTheater present a workshop production of "Each Bird Walking," which seeks answers to perplexing questions: Why walk when we can soar? How do we reconcile individual desires with filial and social obligations? Who are we with our sex taken away? Using dance, poetry, music and spoken word, "Each Bird Walking" is a meditation on families, religion, love and sex, and the constructs that both nurture and confound us. Trained as a computer scientist and dancer, Ahmed brings his own brand of peculiar logic to art. 8pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. Tix/Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'Dykes on Mykes' @ Club Savoy, Santa Clara

Bay Area Lesbian Musicians and Starrose Productions present "Dykes on Mykes," a Women's Music Showcase extravaganza. Honorary dykes welcome. Showcasing Karen Soohoo, Kristin Sweetland, and B.C. Oliver. Come enjoy sweet lavender music by red-hot performers while supporting local Women's Music every 3rd Friday of the month. Born and

Raised in El Paso, Karen Soohoo (www.sooohomusic.com) combines rhythmic roots from years of drumming with raw intuition and sassy vocals. She has shared billing with Taylor Dayne, Joan Jett, Chris Isaak, Train, and Margaret Cho. Kristin Sweetland was born in London, Ontario, and raised in a musical family rooted in folk tradition. Hailed as one of Canada's "hottest young guitar players," her latest album is *Root, Heart, and Crown*. \$5-20 Sliding. 8:30pm. 3546 Flora Vista Ave., Santa Clara. Info/tix: (408) 244-6909; www.clubsavoy.com

Spt

'OKRA' @ Brava Theater Center

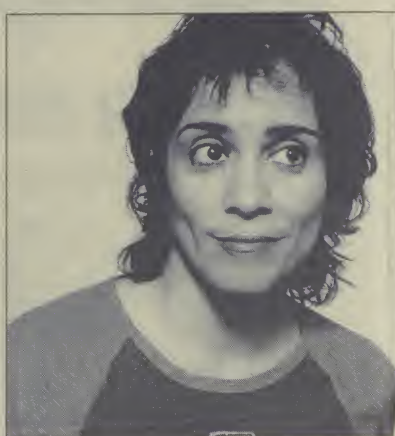
Opening night, World Premiere: *Brava! for Women in the Arts* presents *OKRA*, a dark comedy written by Anne Galjour. Directed by David Dower. Cajun Food and Music will fill the opening night party, and Cajun Food will be available each night throughout the run of the play. The gumbo will be supplied nightly from the good folks at P.J.'s Oyster House, and the gumbo smell will be wafting past the footlights into the ol-factories of the audience, heightening the Cajun experience. Also, Anne will be cooking Red Beans and Rice every Thursday during the run of the play, offering bowls for sale at a nominal price. In keeping with the Cajun theme, the concession stand throughout the run will be selling Dixie Beer, Dr. Pepper and Pralines. After tonight's opening show, attend the opening night Mardi Gras Party! Bring your dancing shoes. Cajun food, and music with Eric and Suzy Thompson of the Cajun Orchestra. \$50 opening night (includes post-performance party). \$24 Wed., \$26 Thu. & Sun., and \$28 Fri. & Sat. (\$4 discount for students, seniors and disabled). Show runs thru March 14. Performances Wed.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. matinees at 3pm. The Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (24th & York Streets). Tix: BRAVA Box Office, 647-2822; www.brava.org

Imperial Court Elections

Imperial Court elections will choose a new Empress and Emperor of SF. Candidates for Emperor are Robb and Fernando. The sole candidate for Empress is China Silk. Residents of SF, Marin & San Mateo counties are eligible to vote with valid ID. Vote at either Project Open Hand, 730 Polk St. (9am-6pm) or at the Castro Muni Station (10am-7pm).

A.C.T.'s 'Carnival' @ Capella

A.C.T.'s Young Professional Auxiliary, Act One, hosts the 3rd annual masquerade ball fundraiser,



Queer Comedienne and solo performer Marga Gomez stars in "Los Big Names" at The Marsh. See Wednesday

"Carnival," a colorful evening of Brazilian music, drinks and dancing. Come party Rio-style and dance the night away with outrageous costumes, capirinhas, live Brazilian music and samba. The hip Mission-district space Capella will be transformed into a Brazilian nightclub with the smooth samba sounds of Vivendo de Pao performing live. All proceeds benefit the ACT One scholarship for actor training at the A.C.T. Conservatory. \$75 ACT One members; \$100 gen/tix; \$75 per tickets for groups of 10 or more. 9pm-1am. Capella, 270 14th St. (at Mission). Valet parking available. Costumes & masks encouraged. Black-tie optional. Tix/info: A.C.T. Box Office, 405 Geary St.; 749-2ACT; www.act-sf.org. Info: 439-2402.

AECM's 'Tracks' @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents *Tracks*, in cooperation with Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement (AECM), an evening of fresh, articulate, original dance theater. Featuring selections from the AECM repertory including *Stardust* set to early David Bowie, a compelling solo titled *Suchness* set to a score by Gavin Bryars, and *Sweet Valentine*, a postmodern look at a 50's love song. Plus an excerpt from AECM's AIR-space developed piece "The Hello Show." \$10-\$15 sliding (NO TAFOF). 8pm. Tix/info: Wheelchair Access (415) 554-0402

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema welcomes black-comic filmmaker Damon Packard, introducing his feature-length "Reflection of Evil," a hilarious, obsessively urban nightmare, with Packard himself as the obese, sugar-added, watch-peddling protagonist navigating LA streets and theme parks in a self-created purgatory of abuse and humiliation. Free junk food. \$5. 8pm reception. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Poetry Center 50th Anniversary @ Knuth Hall, SFSU

Adrienne Rich, Ishmael Reed, Michael McClure, Robin Blaser, and Etel Adnan take the stage in celebration of The Poetry Center's actual 50th Anniversary day. Feb. 21, 1954 was the date that the very first poetry reading, by Theodore Roethke, was presented by The Poetry Center at SF State College. Live music by India Cooke, violin, plus taped recording of rare voices from the Poetry Center's archives. \$25 gen/tix; \$15 student/senior w/ID. \$50 Meet the Poets catered reception 6pm (50 person limit). 7:30pm program. Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Building, SF State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. (at Tapia, west of 19th Ave.). Tix: 1-866-468-3399; www.ticketweb.com

Chanticleer @ Calvary Presbyterian Church

Chanticleer, the internationally acclaimed, 12-man vocal ensemble, perform "One World," led by Music Director Joseph Jennings, a journey to the heart of song at the center of human experience, encompassing early music, madrigals, modern masterpieces and world folk songs. Says Jennings: "I conceived the program as a kind of time-travelogue through music, demonstrating our common experiences of love, life and

death." 8pm. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400; 800-407-1400; www.chanticleer.org

Moscow Festival Ballet @ Marin Center

The famed 60-member Moscow Ballet comes to Marin Center for its only Bay Area performance of a full-length ballet *Cinderella*, with leading dancers from across the Russian, along with stars of the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets. Under the direction of Sergei Radchenko, legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet. \$25, \$30, \$35 & Gold Circle \$45 (students 18 & under \$18). Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium (from south on Hwy. 101, take North San Pedro Road Exit). Info: 415-499-6800; marincenter.org

'Ghost Architecture' @ YBCA Forum

Zaccho Dance Theatre presents *Ghost Architecture*, a performance installation created by Choreographer and Artistic Director Joanna Haigood with Sculptor and Set Designer Wayne Campbell. *Ghost Architecture* focuses on the buildings that previously occupied the site of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Forum. Although these buildings are long gone, their architectural coordinates are forever documented and still very real. Featuring dancers Suzanne Gallo, Robert Henry Johnson, Sheila Lopez, Jose Navarrete and Shakiri. The five dancers will alternate half-hour performances, over a six-hour period each day. The piece will be presented as a museum installation; audience members can enter at any time and stay for as long as they would like. \$10 suggested donation. Performances: February 21, 22, 24-29. Special Preview: February 20th 11am-5pm (continuous performance). Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787) www.yerba Buenaarts.org

Argentine Tango Practica @ The Center

Queer Ballroom presents "Argentine Tango Practica," two 1 1/2 hour workshops. No partner or experience needed. 12pm Argentine Tango Foundations. 1:30pm Movement Variations. \$15 for one; \$25 for two prepaid. Drop-in for \$20 each. SF LGBT Ballroom. Info: 305-8242; www.queerballroom.com

'After Valentine's Day Massacre' @ Studio Z

Naked Sword presents "The After Valentine's Day Massacre," a dance-er-ass-off benefit for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. with Michael Lucas, MC Suppositori Roma, DJ Puss and Suppositori Pull Spelling. \$25 (\$40 VIP). 8:30pm doors. 314-11th St. (at Folsom). Info: studioz.tv/events/nakedsword022104

'Queer Cartoonists' @ Alternative Press Expo

"Queer Cartoonists," a panel of LGBT creators discussing issues of identity, community, and their creative work, will appear at this year's Alternative Press Expo (A.P.E.), the country's largest gathering of alternative and self-published comics. The "Queer Cartoonists" panel will be held in

the "Queer Cartoonists" panel will be held in

the programming room on Sunday, February 22 from 1:30-2:30pm and will feature a moderated discussion followed by questions from the audience. The participants will be: Alison Bechdel (*Dykes To Watch Out For*), Colleen Coover (*Small Favors*), Tristan Crane (*How Loathsome*), Tim Fish (*Cavalcade of Boys*), Young Bottoms (*In Love*), Lauren McCubbin (*XXX Live Nude Girls*, *Kitchen Sink Magazine*), Eric Shanower (*Age of Bronze*, *The Giant Garden of Oz*), Justin Hall (*True Travel Tales*, *Glamazonia: The Uncanny Super Tranny*) will be the moderator. A.P.E. 2004 will be held at The Concourse, 620 7th St., on February 21st (12 noon-6pm) and 22nd (11am-5pm). \$7 single day, \$10 both days. The show presents more than 200 exhibitors of alternative and self-published comics and zines, as well as a full two days of panel discussions and spotlights on special guests. Info: Justin Hall at (415) 608-8011

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Hood Mountain Hike. At the top of the ridge that separates Napa and Sonoma Counties, there are spectacular views all the way to SF. Moderate 9-mile hike; 2,100-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores sts. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Eric Plutz

@ Grace Cathedral
Grace Cathedral presents an organ recital by Eric Plutz, Organist/Choirmaster, Church of the Epiphany, Washington, D.C., performing works by Gigout, Karg-Elert and Jørgen. Plutz will be playing Grace Cathedral's 1934 Aeolian-Skinner Organ, Opus 910, with 7,347 pipes. Free. 3pm. 1100 California St. Info: 749-6300; www.GraceCathedral.org

Mon 23

Guy Brnum

@ QComedy
QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy" hosted this week by Guy Brnum, with Doug Holsclaw, Ray Ferrer, Doug Ferrari, Jane Barbone, Ronn Vigh, Sean Hetherington, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7:30pm reception; show 8pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Tue 24

'The Lion King' LGBT-Center Benefit

@ Orpheum Theater
Join Broadway Gives Back for a special benefit presentation of Broadway's Award-Winning Best Musical, *The Lion King*. Enjoy an exciting pre-theater celebration and a post-theater dessert and dance party with the cast of the show at Ruby-Skyy (420 Mason St.), all while benefitting two very special community organizations. Tickets: Orchestra/Loge \$125; Mezzanine \$95; Balcony \$75; Side Balcony \$45. All sales final.



Jason El Diablo hosts 'Hellbent.' See Thursday



Vaschon exhibits his 'Rear View' at Magnet. See Friday.

Tickets non-refundable. A portion of your ticket price is a donation and will be shared between The San Francisco LGBT Community Center and Project Open Hand, which are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The Orpheum Theater, 1192 Market St. Tix/info: 415.865.5555 ext. 7

Triangle Hap Ki Do Club @ Everett Middle School

Triangle Martial Arts Association announces the formation of Triangle Hap Ki Do Club (THKDC), San Francisco. Triangle was formed in November 1998 in response to the murder of Matthew Shepard, in the effort to empower and protect the local gay community. TMAA programs are open to people of all identities. Hap Ki Do is a Korean martial art that focuses on the use of joint locks and leverage points to quickly and effectively disable or control an aggressor. It is less physically rigorous than other forms of martial arts study. Classes led by US THKDC technical director Master Ken Craig (7th Dan) and Master Mike Stoyka (5th Dan). Classes currently held Tue. & Thu. eves, 6-8 pm, at Everett Middle School, on Church Street at 16th. \$30 two-month introductory guest membership includes uniform. Info: Ken Craig at 415-495-1888; www.trianglektkd.org

Faculty Exhibition

@ The Gallery, SFSU
Opening reception: "San Francisco State University Art Department Faculty Exhibition," featuring works by Candace Crockett, Gail Dawson, Lewis DeSoto, Jeff Downing, Barbara Foster, Leonard Hunter, Mark Johnson, Dale Kistemaker, David Kuraoka, Mario LaPlante, Paula Levine, Julia Marshall, Paul Mullins, Francisco Perez Cardona, Irene Poon Anderson, Paul Pratchenko, Cherie Raciti, Sylvia Solochek Walter, Steve Wilson. Free. 4-6pm. Show runs thru March 18, Tue-Sat, noon-4pm; Wed noon-

6pm. Room 238, Fine Arts Bldg. Info: 338-6535 (gallery phone); www.sfsu.edu/~gallery

'Radar Reading Series' @ Main Library

"Radar Reading Series" showcasing emerging and underground writers, including the occasional superstar. This month featuring Red Jordan Aborateau, Meliza Banales, Elizabeth Stark and Zak Szymanski. Hosted by Michelle Tea. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove)

'Mamma Mia!' @ Golden Gate Theatre

Best of Broadway under the guidance of Carole Shorenstein Hays and Scott E. Nederlander presents Benny Anderson and Björn Ulvæus' *Mamma Mia!*, the Broadway and Int'l. smash-hit musical based on the songs of pop supergroup ABBA. An enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship exploring the fabric of family in the relationship between a mother and her soon-to-be-wed daughter. Direction by Phyllida Lloyd; choreography by Anthony Van Laast; music direction by Keith Thompson. \$40-\$81. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2 & 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor St. (at Market). Tix: Ticketmaster, 512-7770; www.ticketmaster.com

Wed 25

Marga Gomez @ The Marsh

The Marsh presents "The San Francisco Treasure Series," celebrating the work of local performers who have developed their performances and been supported by The Marsh since it was founded in 1989. Tonight: Marga Gomez returns to workshop her newest performance, *Los Big Names*, a Latino showbiz dysfunctional family saga, before it premieres at the Kennedy Center in March. Marga's first solo show, *Memory Tricks*, premiered at The Marsh in 1991. Since then, she has gone on to develop six more solo shows and national fame. \$25-\$50 sliding. 8pm. 1062 Valencia St. (near 22nd). Tix/info: 826-5750; www.themarsh.org

Thu 26

'Seagull Shores' @ New Langton Arts

The Electra Theater Company for disabled and homeless persons of all cultures, ages and genders presents "Seagull Shores," a haunted soap opera, directed by Adam J. Ansell, whose goal is "to create a safe, truthful place for disenfranchised persons to rediscover their creative voices, share their stories, and encourage them to acknowledge their own strength and will to survive and create." \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Doors open 7:30; show at 8pm. . Plays

Thu., Fri. & Sat., Feb. 26, 27 & 28. (Preview night: Wed., Feb. 25 at 8pm.) New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th).

'Strong Communities Talent Show' @ Central YMCA

The Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA on Golden Gate Ave. is hosting a talent show to benefit the 2004 YMCA Strong Communities Campaign. An extravaganza of events including a bevy of different vocal stylings ranging from Traditional American classics to Pop and R&B. A ventriloquist will be on hand, as well as a mystery "boy-band" impersonation performance. Silent auction. Tons of info about the YMCA. Pre-party drink specials at Soluna Cafe & Lounge, located at 272 McAllister St. (at Larkin) from 4-7pm. \$3-\$10 sliding. Show at 7pm. All welcome. 220 Golden Gate Ave. Tix/info: Penny or Michael at 447-2522.

Progressive Art Party @ YBCA+SFMOMA

YBCA + SFMOMA Progressive Art Party, A Doubleheader Celebration of Tom Marioni: *Golden Rectangle* and *Supernova: Art of the 1990s*. View two new contemporary art exhibitions at San Francisco's hottest art venues. Start off at YBCA to kick off the evening with a viewing of Tom Marioni's exhibit, *Golden Rectangle* and enjoy complimentary drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live beats with artist Marioni in-person. Then hop over to SFMOMA to check out *SUPERNOVA: Art of the 1990s* from the Logan Collection. Hang out in the Schwab room that will feature more surprise entertainment, dessert and sweet libations. \$30 regular/\$20 YBCA and SFMOMA Members. 5 pm to 9 pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Galleries (5 pm to 7 pm), 701 Mission Street at Third; and The Schwab Room at SFMOMA (7 pm to 9 pm), 151 Third Street (between Howard and Mission). Tix/info: 415.978.2787, www.YerbaBuenaArts.org; 415.357.4000, www.SFMOMA.org

'Booty Photo Exhibit' @ Frank Eddy

Opening reception: The Divine Juanita MORE! exhibits portraits of the trade that tramps through her life in "Booty Photo Exhibition - Filthy Dirty Portraits." Free. 6-9pm. Exhibit runs through February 28. Frank Eddy, 2309 Bryant St. Info: Juanita More, 263-0980; www.juanita-more.com; Frank Eddy, 572-7431

Michael Light's '100 Suns'

@ Foto-Grafix Books
Foto-Grafix Books Meet-the-Authors/Artists Series presents SF-based photographer Michael Light, discussing and signing copies of his recently published book, *100 Suns* (Knopf, 2003), which documents the era of visible nuclear testing, the atmospheric era, with 100 photographs drawn by Light from the archives at Los Alamos Nat'l Laboratory and the U.S. Nat'l Archives. *100 Suns* confronts the indescribable by presenting without embellishment the stark evidence of the tests at the moment of detonation. Free. 7pm. 655 Mission St. Info: 495-7242; www.friendsofphotography.org

'Hellbent' @ My Place

Jason El Diablo DJs and hosts this new Thursday night queer rock party, spinning trashy rock 'n' roll and electroclash. Wear Kiss make-up tonight and drink for free all night! \$1 shots at the back bar. \$3. My Place, 1225 Folsom St. (at 8th).

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
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395 Ninth Street
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

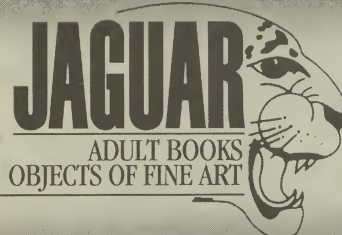
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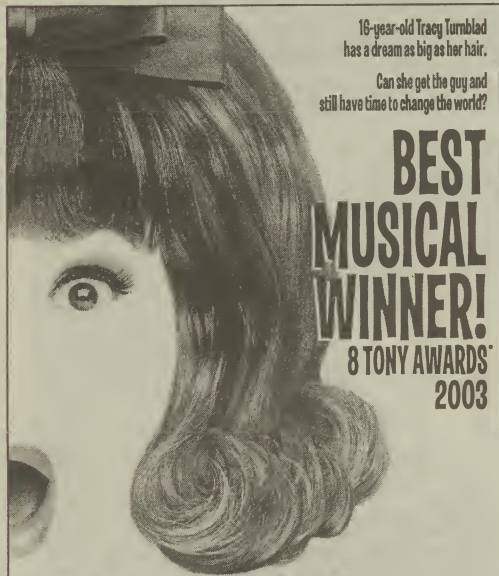
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Sashes & awards galore

Reports from Philly, Chicago & SF

by Mister Marcus

The leather tribe was busy from coast to coast last weekend. As the Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather contest was taking place in that city, the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest was taking place in Chicago, with the Pantheon of Leather Awards thrown in for good measure. And in San Francisco, it was the 75th birthday celebration for Alan Selby, the Inter-Club Motorcycle Awards ceremony, and International Bear Rendezvous 2004 was taking place, featuring the International Mr. Bear contest.

It was impossible to be in three places at once, and since Jimmy Madden of the Bike Stop in Philly asked me to judge his contests way back in December, there was no backing out to attend the events in Chicago and in San Francisco on the same weekend. Fortunately, understanding people were kind enough to get the details and photos for me, so you are not being ignored.

(Those bad-mouthing me for not being in San Francisco this past weekend need to get a life and realize that when you make a commitment, you stick to it. The events taking place outside San Francisco were established over a year ago. When no one bothers to send press releases — ICF or the Alan Selby birthday organizers — how am I to know?)

Philadelphia

It was cold in the city of brotherly and sisterly love, but it was warm throughout the leather zones. Lots of leather women were on hand to witness three of their leather sisters and one leather man compete for the titles.

The meet and greet on Friday at the Bike Stop was jam packed and several hundred dollars were raised for the travel fund.

It was fun judging the contests with outgoing Mr. and Ms. Phila. Leather Jim and Jen, plus Larry Barat of Wash, DC., Ms. NJ Leather Storm, American Leather Woman Sheryl Dee and Mr. Philadelphia Leather 1989 Bill Haber.

Ryan Goldner and Carlotta Tendant were the MCs and did a great job with their tasks.

Three women — J.P. Dykster,



Heather (Pandora) Purvin, left, won the Ms. Leather Philadelphia 2004 title, and Victor Falero won the Mr. Leather Philadelphia 2004 title in Philadelphia last Saturday night, February 14. They both advance to the next higher level of competition.

Minnie Van Driver and Heather Purvin (aka Pandora) — and one man, Victor Falero, went through the usual leather contest rigors, including each performing a fantasy. Victor easily obtained the 75% of available points to win the Mister title, but it was very, very close among the women.

Ms. Pandora's fantasy was an audible telephone conversation with President Bush where she was appointed head of National Security and by the time the conversation was over, she managed to put the kabosh on several anti-gay policies now in effect in this country. The audience howled, stomped and cheered.

When tally-master Richie Madden finished his task, it was Pandora who took the title.

Victor will compete at IML 2004 in Chicago in May 2004, and Pandora has a choice of competing for IMsL, ABW or Ms. World.

During the proceedings, American Leather Woman Sheryl Dee introduced the new Leather Girl flag, and was selling leather girl pins as well.

The winning fantasies were superb. Victor managed to make up

as Benjamin Franklin and captured electricity to torture his slave by hoisting a Leather Pride Flag that brought the house down.

It was a night to remember. Philadelphia's leather community is alive and well and a lot of credit is due Bike Stop owner, Jim Madden who continuously strives to make his bar the headquarters for everything that is leather. And to Jim and Jen, thanks for a great year with your titles. You did us all proud.

The Chicago Story

Most of the leather glitterati were in Chicago to attend the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest and hopefully to win a Pantheon of Leather award at the contest held on Saturday afternoon at the Leather Archives & Museum.

Five men vied for the Mr. Cell Block Leather 2004 title, and Adrian Williams gave a dazzling step-aside speech and donated \$500 to the Leather Archives & Museum in answering the challenge put out by a former LA&M spokesperson.

When all the votes were counted, 37 year old Douglas O'Keefe was the winner. He advances to compete at IML 2004. The first

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 19

The 5th round in the Bare Chest Calendar string of contests at the Powerhouse tonight at 2130. Got it? Flaunt it!

Also Leather and Uniform Night at Renegades in San Jose from 2100 to closing. The new group "The Brotherhood" will be presented with a strict dress code enforced.

Saturday, February 21

SF Boys of Leather 2nd Annual Pre-Oscar Party at Daddy's Bar, 2000 to midnight. Beer/soda bust, raffles, trivia contest to benefit the Leather Archives & Museum and the SF Boys of Leather. Mr. Long Beach Leather Contest at Pistons in Long Beach. Winner advances to Mr. Los Angeles Leather contest on March 27.

Thursday, February 26

6th Round in the Bare Chest Calendar string of contests at the Powerhouse tonight at 2130.

Weekend, February 26-29

South Plains Leather Contest in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Eagle with lots of events to keep you busy deep in the heart of Texas!

The 15 Association celebrates their 24th anniversary with a dinner at the Crowne-Plaza Hotel on Friday and a play party on Saturday and Sunday. Call 673-0452 for info.

Week of February 28-March 7

Leather Pride Week in San Diego culminating with Mr. San Diego Leather 2004 on Saturday Night. For info email: mrsleather2003@yahoo.com.

Mr. Sisters Leather Contest in Los Angeles. Mr. Cleveland Leather Contest in Cleveland at the Tool Shed.

Sunday, February 29

Academy Awards Show on the big screen at the Castro Theatre at a benefit for Cystic Fibrosis. Tickets are \$125 person with a lot of goodies or \$65 general admission. Call (510) 267-9699 or click on www.academygala.com.

PORN

There's a new day a-cumming

by John F. Karr

O holy emollient! O soul-slaking saucer!

There's nothing quite the same as a load of jiz, hot from the source of it all. Scientific studies have shown that eating cum helps stave off depression, and I'm not making that up. I know I'm happier when I get a load. I used to live for cum — wasn't it the prize, the very reason for cocksucking? Yet, after it was revealed to be the carrier of the scourge, I became indeed depressed, because I lived without it.

So did the porn industry, once it was dragged (after lengthy denial) into safer sex. They made taking a partner's load absolutely *verboten*. And nice try, guys, but neither the cum substitute, spit, nor the scarfing of one's own cum, which everybody in porn does now like some dutiful obligation, is quite the same thing as making a banquet of your buddy's. Some years later, we began to realize: if you could get it from eating cum, we'd all be dead. That's another fact validated by scientific studies. So, while I think barebacking is Russian

roulette, these days I'm deglutinating the doo-dah straight from the dick. Watch with me now, as the dam breaks and the rightful bill of fare is restored.

Back in 2002, Kristen Bjorn was harshly condemned by industry watchdogs for including one instance of jiz ingestion. Yet not much later, hardly a word was said about an even more brazen depiction in Blue Blake's entertaining *Hard as Rock*, when Brad Rock laid his broad cock squarely on Sean Storm's quivering tongue

and let it spew. Six months ago, a studio head told me he'd love to put it in his films, but the distributors would balk. Today, the box of Voyeur Cam touts, "Oral cum shots!" — but maybe this one doesn't count, since it comes from Eastern Europe. Closer to home, Lance Gear takes it in the Australian feature *Up the Stakes*. Directly at home, Raging Stallion owner Chris Ward admits, "It's become a selling point," and gladly includes it in the company's upcoming features *Hard Sex* and *Pokin' in the Boy's Room*. Yes, esurient mouths everywhere are gaping to be gulping those little pearls of joy. And the famine's

gonna be over altogether, when the majors realize what's going on.

Yet at a very un-major company, it's been going on quietly but regularly since 1997. It's not an every-time strict rule at locally-based Factory Videos. But while company owners (and veteran performers) Frank Parker and Scott Morris enforce the use of condoms, they let those who want to eat it go right ahead. Cum-eating's no *raison d'être* for the company. "We knew it was safe and sound," Parker told me. "And sleazy, dirty and fun."

Funk spot

"Sleazy, dirty and fun" typifies Factory Video's output, which is admittedly pretty funky, somewhat intentionally hovering between amateur and pro, yet almost always hot enough to compensate for the lack of gloss. Equipment is far from state-of-the-art, picture resolution is grainy. Lighting is never bad, but never artful. The metal garage-door rattles whenever a truck goes by the South of Market studio, but, smartly, there's no music behind the action to mask such noise. This allows the performer's natural sounds to be heard, while also precluding the director's intrusion. What you see is how it went down between the guys.

The company's made over 60 videos. So where to start? The ear-

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Karrnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

runner-up was Erick Ocasio, and the second runner-up was Steve Maxey. The judges were John Pental, Adrian Williams, Vern Stewart, Patti Brown and IML Den Daddy Walter Klingler.

As for the Pantheon of Leather Awards, I had not received a complete list of the winners at deadline time, but those most trumpeted about are:

Man of the Year: Jack McGeorge; Woman of the Year: Mary Elizabeth Boyd; Large Club: Mama's Family; Community Choice Female Sheryl Dee; Community Choice Male John Pental. No. Calif. Region: Mama Reinhardt; President's Award: Mark Leno, Steve Sampson and Chris Reynolds; Southern California Region Stephen Blackwell; Lifetime Achievement Alan Selby; Midwest Region Thom Dombkowski; and Forebearer Award Joseph Bean.

The Inter-Club Fund Awards

A huge crowd was on hand for the Inter-Club Fund Awards on Saturday night at Most Holy Redeemer church. They say Dennis Silva was efficient and swift in getting presenters and nominees on and off the stage as *only* Dennis can.

The complete list of winners (again) was not available at my deadline, but here are a few: Man of the Year: Tony Koester; Woman of the Year: Vick Germany; Best Fundraiser: Mama's 500th Pinning Ceremony; Best SF Leather Event: Mr. SF Leather 2004; Best non-contest leather event, best people events on a run, and best run of the year: Leather Levi Weekend; Buddy Rider of the Year-North: Mike Riordan; Biker of the Year-



At the California Culinary Academy last Thursday, February 12, Tony Koester presented cake to a surprised Alan Selby and his friend on the occasion of Alan's 75th birthday. Happy Birthday Alan!

North: David Tajita; Frank Benoit Award: Bill Hollabaugh; Best Community Event: Dore Alley Street Fair; Best community entertainer and impersonator of the Year: Donna Sachet.

The dinner was superb, the entertainment superb, and all the winners well deserved.

'Out for Laughs on the Ocean'

Ever since (and before, I suspect) Shann Carr became the second woman to hold the International Ms. Leather title, she has been promoting comedy, and while she's still not where she wants to be, she is still out there and doing great.

A month ago, her first DVD, *Out for Laughs on the Ocean* was issued to wide acclaim. Besides Shann herself, there are five "out" entertainers on the recording

(Mark Davis, Steve Moore, Ms. Richfield and hypnotist Bruce McDonald). The DVD chronicles their adventures on Hawaiian and Caribbean cruises with all gay/lesbian audiences. It is a riot!

The one-hour DVD premiered at the Renberg Theatre in Los Angeles on January 20 and is the rave of the moment. You have to see this documentary. Dear Shann has worked so hard to get *Out For Laughs* going. She has given of herself to many charities and is always funny and has a very positive attitude.

You can get the DVD by sending \$20 plus \$5 for shipping to: Girl Moxie Studios, 69830 Papaya Lane, Palm Springs, CA, 92234.

Leather people have always supported other leather people. Let's show Shann how much we appreciate her humor, her moxie and her talent. Order one today! ▼

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Factory Video

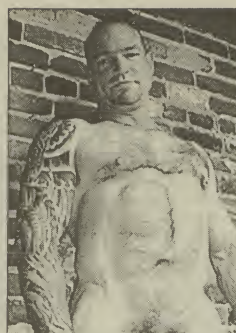
◀ previous page

lier titles are less polished and more fetish-oriented. The three-hour DVD *Cum Sucker's Trilogy* anthologizes just the cum shots of many movies: right in da mouth. Like underwear? Try the playfully rugged *Underworld*. Jockstraps are the feature of *Jock Strap Whores*. Crave a dildo? They show



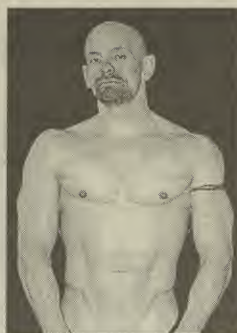
up frequently, but hit some kinda heights with Steve Pierce and Brad Davis in *Bustin' Ass*. Kinkier leatherplay (boot worship, dog-boys in cages, flogging, tight ball-stretchers and light ball-torture) is in *Leather Factory*. You'll find tattoos, piercings and cockrings on most every guy, and while there's no aversion to streetwise, pretty hip younger dudes, you'll find adult, well-muscled and hairy men all over the place at Factory Video. Try *Furry Fuckers*. Or more recent and slightly slicker titles that I liked, *Blue Collar*, *Jizz Gym* and *Eager to Sleaze*.

Although the company prefers to feature "the San Francisco kinda guys you see everyday on the street," you'll start to notice the Factory stars. A few are



Duncan Murphy: assured assets

hired in, like Rusty Samuels, who is decently featured in *Constructing Porn*, and really hot in *Eager to Sleaze*. Carlos Morales is in this one, too, well-topped by in-house stud Andy Dill. Billy Wild, after a couple nicey-nice appearances for Titan Studios, made a sleazy home-base for himself at Factory. He's in a lot of titles, and gratefully so; that's his beautiful cock and balls stretched so taut in *Leather Factory*, and his pretty ass so well-fucked in *Ass Under Glass*.



Samoth: ripped & statuesque

Then there are a handful of exclusive Factory Video studs so hot I had to search out all their titles. I give a Wow! for grizzled Jack van Dean and forceful yet charming top Seth Handler. But I flipped for Duncan Murphy and Samoth. They appear together in *Blue Collar*, where the 6-foot, 180 lb. with 5% body fat of the ripped Samoth is nearly dwarfed by Murphy. He's HUGE. With cock in proportion. Plus colorful ink on mammoth biceps, hair in all the best places, an assured masculinity, smooth disposition and a masterful technique: jeez, what slow, controlled strokin'. Samoth is to porn what Yul Brynner was to *The King and I*: absolutely unique, coolly imperious, stunning to see (lacking only some of Brynner's charisma and all of his foreskin). He comes into his own fucking a strawberry-blond lad in *Anal Associates* (which, by the way, makes a point of fetishizing the three-piece suit). Statuesque and classically cocked, Samoth is shaven to the bone, the absolute definition of marmoreal. I'd pay to touch this. And you can: check out his ad, in this paper. And check out Factory Videos, at www.factoryvideos.com; or (415) 777-9070. ▼

Out There

◀ page 33

clever of BM's set designer (the guy from *the Tubes* whose name we can't remember). It was perfect for the Coney Island setting of the trashy star's tour, as well as an insider's salute from Bette to her gay audience — who seem to have missed the reference altogether.

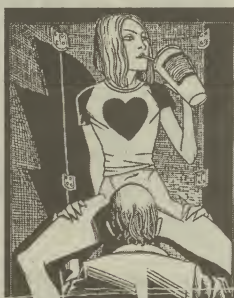
On a recent episode of *Hollywood Squares*, this Q & A:

Q: Why do Hell's Angels wear leather?

A. Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

Comix 'r' us

A panel discussion among **Queer Cartoonists** will be part of this year's Alternative Press Expo at the Concourse, 620 7th St., SF, Feb. 21-22. Creators of independent comic books, strips and zines set to participate are **Alison Bechdel** (*Dykes to Watch*



From Tristan Crane and Ted Naifeh's *How Loathsome*

Out For), **Colleen Coover** (*Small Favors*), **Tristan Crane** (*How Loathsome*), **Tim Fish** (*Cavalcade of Boys*), **Laurenn McCubbin** (*XXX Live Nude Girls*) and **Eric Shanower** (*Age of Bronze*). Moderator will be **Justin Hall** (*Glamazonia: The Uncanny Super Tranny*).

Pillow talk

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surreal gibberish.

Museum music, as the 19th-century art of singing is sometimes regarded, can also tug the heartstrings and engage the mind. *Between Friends* (RCA Red Seal) is Mexican tenor Ramon Vargas' way of celebrating the communality of vocal art. Duets illustrate various kinds of friendship: noble as Don Carlo and Rodrigo in Verdi's *Don Carlo*, or Alvaro and Carlo in the heartbreaking "Solenne in quest'ora" from *Forza del destino*.

There are romantic friend-



ships: Marcello and Rodolfo reminiscing about their lost loves in *Boheme*, or Elisabeth and her son-in-law parting at the end of *Don Carlo*. There are comic "friendships" like those of Dulcamara

and Nemorino, or Figaro and the Count Almaviva.

In all of these, Vargas takes the tenor role — superbly in the lighter parts, with more stress but still magnificently in heavier ones. He is joined notably by Manuel Lanza in *Barbiere*, Roberto Frontali in *Forza* and *Boheme*, Vasily Gerello in *Pearl Fishers*, and Leo Nucci in *Elisir*. The women are less successful: Miriam Gauci makes a blowzy Elisabetha, and the trio from *Maometto Secondo* is an odd choice in any case. If nothing else, this album reminds us what we lost when the current regime decided to end SFO's association with Vargas. ▼

Taking the next step

Stained-glass artist Dan Smith puts queer square-dancing in a new light

by Arthur Evans

Dan Smith is a master stained-glass artist who has lived and worked for 30 years in San Francisco's Castro district. He has also mastered another art that not many people know about, but which has an enthusiastic following in the city: same-sex square-dancing.

Three clubs here swing to the "calls" (patterns of steps, like "Allemande Left") that are used in square-dancing everywhere. But there's a difference at these local clubs: the couples are of the same sex.

They aren't alone. There's a big network of queer square-dance clubs across the country. But so far, they haven't gotten much attention in either the gay or the mainstream media.

That's about to change, thanks to Dan Smith. He has combined his mastery in fashioning stained-glass with his adeptness in queer square-dancing. The result is a stunning series of stained-glass windows that celebrate same-sex square-dancing.

The amazing part is that they were all made by dancers who had no experience in working with stained glass. Dan trained them all from scratch. The results are luminously beautiful.

Dan was able to do this because of a \$10,000 grant he won last year from the San Francisco Arts Commission. Their cultural equity program, funded by the city's hotel tax, supports talented artists who are overlooked by the mainstream art establishment.

I recently talked with Dan about his life and art. Here's his remarkable story.

Arthur Evans: How did you get into queer square-dancing?

Dan Smith: I had a roommate who was a square-dancer, and he suggested I try it. I said to him, "Well, I don't know. I don't want to go all the way across town." He replied, "There are three clubs a block away from here." So I went, and it was fun.

You can be very close with people, extremely friendly, in fact hold them in your arms. You twirl them around, or they twirl you. Everyone holds hands at the end of each group dance, and we embrace each other.

What are some differences between queer square-dancing and traditional square-dancing?

One thing is the fluidity of the roles of "boy" and "girl," as they're called. In traditional square-dancing, a male stands on the left in a couple and is called a boy. A female is on the right and called a girl. During the dance, she moves on from one boy to another. The dance is over when she's back at boy one.

In queer square-dancing, the terms "boy" and "girl" denote roles in the dance rather than physical gender. Queer dancers usually learn both girl and boy roles right from the beginning. Gay and lesbian novices may think they'll dance only boy or girl, but 99% of them quickly find they want to dance both parts. It's more practical if you can dance both parts. Even the dancers in traditional clubs must master both roles when they reach the fourth, advanced level. It's called being bi-dancial.



Stained-glass artist Dan Smith

It's quite shocking for straight square-dancers. They've learned a great many complicated steps all the way up to the advanced level. Then, suddenly, they have to switch their sexual role and do it quite differently. Queer folks flow right into it, from scratch.

How did you learn to make stained-glass windows?

I was a painter who used acrylics to paint on glass. One day I took one of my paintings to a local stained-glass shop, to ask about how to frame it. The owner was impressed and asked if I would like to work in her shop. Her husband taught me how to make slumped lamps, which are molded panels of glass melted into arched shapes in a kiln. I worked in her shop for about three years.

I built on what I learned there and started making stained-glass windows on my own. Over the years, I developed a clientele of individuals, businesses, and churches who commissioned me to do pieces for them.

On top of that, you've been a gay liberationist since before Stonewall, isn't that right?

Yes, in the 1960s there were "homophile" groups, as they were called then. They held annual demonstrations on July 4th at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. I participated in two, in 1967 and '68.

We had three or four buses, and we had maybe 40 or 50 people marching. All the men wore suits, and all the women wore dresses. We marched with signs saying, "Equality for Homosexuals" and things like that. I loved it because I met all those interesting queers.

I'm into square-dancing because I want to do the next step. I want to do it aesthetically. Also, that's why I'm doing this project, teaching queer square-dancers to make stained-glass windows. It's the next step for me. It unifies my interests in stained-glass windows, dancing, and gay liberation, and shares that energy with others.

What do you require of the dancers making these windows?

I require each of them to make a window that relates to square-dancing. Also, they have to write

two papers, "What Square-Dancing Means to Me" and "What the Window Means to Me." The papers will be displayed along with the windows at the city's dancing clubs and at a common venue that is yet to be determined.

The effort will cost them nothing for glass, materials or instruction. However, they must bring me a single piece of fruit each time they come. That's my payment.

How many have you enlisted so far?

Thirteen. None of them had any real experience with stained-glass before. Most of their windows are now done.

Tell me about the various parts of stained-glass window-making. What do the dancers have to learn?

First, they have to realize that they have the ability to conceptualize a creative idea. A concept is the most important thing because almost everything else is simply craft. The concept is the art. Most stained-glass windows that you see are not art. They are craft. They have no concept. Most stained-glass craftspeople have a very limited aesthetic sense.

What are the main steps in making a stained-glass window?

Different artists have different methods. In mine, I first tape the "cartoon," which is a sketch of the window's concept, to a piece of plywood. I cut the piece of glass that will be in the lower left-hand corner of the window, grind it, put copper foil around the edges, and put into position. Then I go on to the next piece.

The window grows from the bottom left-hand corner across to the upper right-hand corner. In my method, none of the pieces fits exactly. The window's design changes slightly with each new piece.

That's a good thing. It gives the finished product a feeling of flow. It avoids the rigid, over-planned look that you find in most glass-stained windows.

Here's another window, with a mallard duck floating in water, some rushes and mountains in the background. What's this all about?



Quack, Quack by the square-dancing artist known only as Gary.

This was done by Gary. To him, the window represents a call named "Accey-Deucey." When this call is made, the centers of a line trade, and the ends circulate. A number of years ago, when the caller said, "Accey-Deucey," a dancer heard the call as "Accey-Ducky." She shouted back, "Quack, Quack." Now whenever dancers hear the caller say, "Accey-Deucey," everyone responds with, "Quack, Quack." It's become a tradition all around the world, wherever people do square-dancing.

Here's a window that shows some teacups floating in the air with the handles interconnected.

It's by Rojean. She got the idea from the square-dance call named "Teacup Chain," where the girls cross in a complicated pattern, visiting all four boys. The teacups are the girls, and the flowers are the boys. Rojean is a straight woman who comes to dance at the gay and lesbian clubs.

In most straight square-dancing clubs, you have to come as a couple, but she sometimes prefers to come alone. In gay and lesbian clubs, you can come alone or with as many as you can gather, it doesn't matter. Also, whereas in straight square-dancing you usually dance with the same person most of the time, in lesbian and gay square-dancing, you are encouraged to dance with lots of

people.

Rojean was undergoing cancer therapy at the time she started dancing in the queer clubs. She was worried about going to the straight clubs, about how people would treat her because of her appearance. But at our clubs, no one made any negative comments at all. So coming to us means friendship to her. Teacups also connote friendship, so her window makes sense on that score, too.

Every window, as soon as it's finished, has been shown at all three gay and lesbian square-dance clubs here in San Francisco. They are displayed with four 8x10 photos of the dancers working on the windows, along with the papers written by the dancers. The response of club members has been incredibly positive to every window that has been shown.

After the project is over, I'll submit photographs of all the windows and the students, along with their essays and my own observations, DVDs, videotapes, tape recordings and transcripts to the LGBT Historical Society.

This will be a very comprehensive documentation for future generations. It will give them insight into some of the creative energy that existed in the city's LGBT community at the beginning of the third millennium. It will also show the future how we could swing. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10

Talked briefly at concession stand before movie "Devot". You, slim, medium height, dark (Tami? Bengali?) Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: EROS 1-11-04

Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you...If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Mr. Mill Valley, SAT. 1/10, SOMA
Your Outstanding. I'd like to reconnect. Please call. ☎ 71058

Saturday 1/10 Bus #48 4:40 pm

You chubby white man aboard bus at Potrero and 24th street. Seated Front. Asked me the time. I reply 20 to 5:00. We looked at each other. You wore beige jacket, glasses w/cane. Me Latin w/bomber jacket, kahki pants. We get off at the same stop. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71057

Red Jeep Driving Down 15th St.

We've exchanged glances at least four times now. I was walking my dog this time. Would love to say hello in person. ☎ 71073

Danny 1/31 On The Phone

I was at Holiday Inn. You're 6'3" tall. Bk HrGr Eyes. "Driving me crazy" - contact me please (Let's Meet) ☎ 71086

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Free Spaghetti

Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

Seeking Friendship and More

33, Healthy HIV+, 160#, Brn, Brn eyes. Likes books, movies, theatre, cooking, and fitness. Looking to meet someone special. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71060

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples

I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Looking for a smooth, muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth and wish to satisfy you. ☎ 71061

Muscular Italian AM Seeks Asian

To date on a regular basis. Please be smooth, fit and honest, 25-50, and know what you want. I'm 46 yo, passionate, sensual, sincere. You be mature, honest, and please no games/BS. No one night stands. ☎ 71062

Bound and Gagged

GWM, 46, 5'10", 160, lean, hairy seeks masculine man for dating/possible relationship. Very Turned on by role-play, tie up games, top and bottom, securely bound and gagged. Must love bondage. ☎ 71063

Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear

ISO friendship or LTR with HIV- GWM, GHM, 38-52. I enjoy movies, gardening, cooking, the ocean; Me: GWM, 5'9", S&P, blue. SF & Peninsula area. ☎ 71064

Positives Unite!

Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom, leading resourceful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072

Santa Rosa Native

SWM, 42, 5'10", 180#, Redhead, Mobile Home owner. Ex Navy. Enjoy drumming, talk radio, chess and tennis. Seeking Female. ☎ 71070

Black Cock Wanted

White guy, 55, great shape, 6'1", wants to suck on a black cock every night. Will treat it and you really good. ☎ 71082

Craving Affection?

Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding new friend to talk to and be held and touched? Slim masculine guy 44 seeks another slim, masculine guy younger or same age, any race. ☎ 71074

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt

seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 71075

Need Service? 40 - 60? Mornings?

Seeking oral top who needs & appreciates excellent service. I'm attractive, clean cut, 40, HIV+. You, 40-60 stocky to heavy & really loves good head. No drugs BS. I want to take good care of you. ☎ 71080

Looking for that Special Man

I am looking for that special man that I can spend the rest of my life with as my best friend and life partner. I am 5'11", 180#, Italian, HIV-, versatile. You should be GWM, GLM, 40-60. Can't wait to meet. Serious only. ☎ 71069

Mature Muscular Man

50-60, single, HIV-neg. is what I seek for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, HIV-neg., 5'7", 150#, goatee, smooth 40" chest, 30" waist, NS, ND. ☎ 71081

Husky GLM Bottom

Sagittarius 38yo, 155 lbs, 5'8", nice round ass, slim body HIV+, healthy. Seeking guys under 40 smooth, slim body. Race and size is unimportant. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Gemini, Aries, Taurus, Leo. SF only. ☎ 71059

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Looking For A Hung Guy?

If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least "9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

STR8 Guys! I Wanna Suck You!

I can do a way better job than your girlfriends. We can 69, watch videos and DVD's, and have fun. ☎ 71052

Hispanic Guys, I'm Looking

for Hispanic men who are hung and good-looking and hot, to service, watch videos and have a hot time. ☎ 71053

Looking For Guys In Marin

I'm looking for guys in Marin County, who are hung or good looking, for fun and good times, to party, etc. ☎ 71054

Spanker Wanted for DJK

Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you and no reciprocity required. Me: 159 Lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can Do Scenes. ☎ 71065

Above N' Beyond

Let me be myself, hang between your legs and smell your scent. You place your legs on my shoulders. Make it happen. ☎ 71066

Hot Mature Men

Passionate LM 46, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure to senior men. Bearded, kissing, loners. Husky non-gym a plus. Possible LTR. Not into pain. S&M or the gay lifestyle. ☎ 71067

Novice Curious about Anal Sex

Seeking older man with six inches who will take it slow while giving me my first anal exp. Me: 40yo, Brn, Hazel. You over 50 yo. ☎ 71068

Italian AM Muscular Seek Asian

46 yrs., clean, HIV negative, work out 4 days a week. Wishes to date, on regular basis, a smooth, muscular Asian. I'm romantic, passionate, sincere. Please be stable, no flakes, b/s. ☎ 71090

Desire Thick Cocked Average/Maculine Guy

Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worshiping, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into yos, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 71076

POZ Freak

40, 5'8", 177 poz, healthy mystic honest guy seeking another poz freak pig for ongoing play sessions on regular basis ☎ 71077

Hard Body Hung Dark Meat

Worship by bi white 5'8" tall 175 lbs. 32" w, 7"x5" out squeaky clean and discreet & grateful. ☎ 71078

Beer and Strip Poker

Lets relax with a few beers and see who ends up naked first. Masculine swimmer with lean build and handsome cut dick looking for another masculine guy with lean build 18-45. ☎ 71083

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

Yes Yes-Hung-Yes No Yes Vers

48 Rugged good looks. 9 1/2 X 7 German-Cherokee, artist, poz 18 years. Healthy, happy, ISO mature partner, hung a plus. S 71087

Blonde All American Guy

Looking for hook up. For tonite, maybe for life. Who knows. I'm 37. Str8 looking-acting. ☎ 71088

48 5'9" 150# GYM Toned Handsome

Seeks wkend L.T.R. w/Friendlover during the week. We each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wkend & being together. Be 18-60 in-shape & gd looking w/a cool attitude. I'm into art, reading, hiking, Zen & yoga, working out & hot sex. S.F., Santa Rosa, San Raphael. ☎ 71089

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples

I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Seeks a smooth, muscular guy w/huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth, and will satisfy you. Pls no B/S. ☎ 71091

Prof. Bartender Aims To Please!

Me: WM, 44 y old, 6'1", 220 lbs., S & P, hzl, stache, gd klng, horny 24/7. You: Older, hairy, clean, bald, 40-60 WM, professional, stable, hung. South Bay - Penisula a plus! ☎ 71092

Mature Asian Men

WLM 46, 6', 165 lbs, moderately hairy. ISO older Asian men over 60 who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure all over. Npt into the gay scene or lifestyle. LTR possible. ☎ 71093

Platinum Polar Bear

HIV+ top, 50, 5'8" 200# S/P/B 7.5" cut big nuts. Takes charge or gets back. Multi-loaded, long sessions, any age/race. LTR or 1 nite stand. Daytime, too. ☎ 71094

"Nipples & Ass"

I love big, large, swollen, puffy nipples. 18 to 35. Slim or muscle bound for some many spankings. I'm aggressive, strong driving man. No fats or fems. ☎ 71095

"Puffy Nipples"

Seeking males 25 to 45 with large swollen nipples. No extended nipples and no fats or fems. Give me something to suck & fuck. Latino's and mixed race. ☎ 71096

"Young Nipples"

18 to 20, goodlooking males for some lessons in lovemaking. GBM, 52, 5'10", 200, Ch. 50". You, submissive Latin, Black and Asian. No fats or fems. Mixed race a plus. ☎ 71097

FETISHES

Maximized/Spurled Load Fetish!

ISO major/spurled shoots that almost take my head off; "process" your dick/balls "compassionately" to reap/earn this reward! ☎ 71056

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Foot Players-Do Not Keep Your

feet bundled in winter socks, let's get them together; touching, rubbing. Sensuous and fun. GWM, 40's seeks same. Clean feet only. ☎ 71079

Serious Moustache Fetish

Sincere, honest, mature and endowed black gentleman, 49, 5'9", 180, balding, stache, 8.5 inches. Seeking a mature, masculine man with a moustache only for good times. All races. ☎ 71098

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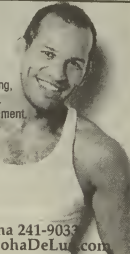
5'9", 170 shaved head 32 looking for guys between ages 18-50 who come to San Diego and need a place to stay and have fun. ☎ 71085

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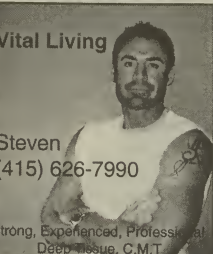
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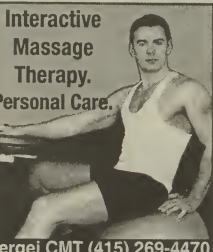
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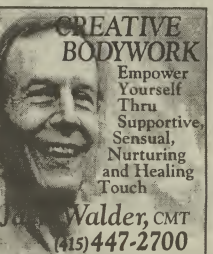
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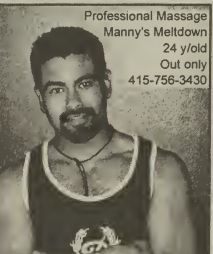
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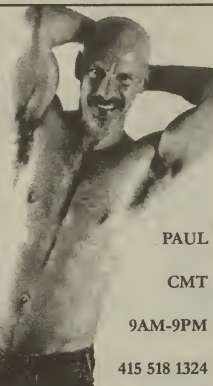
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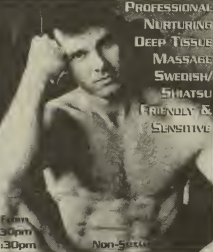


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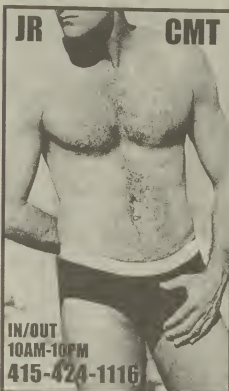
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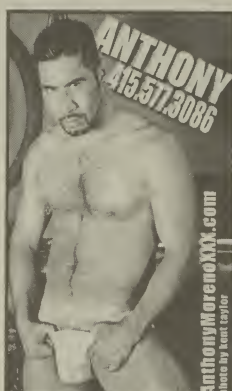
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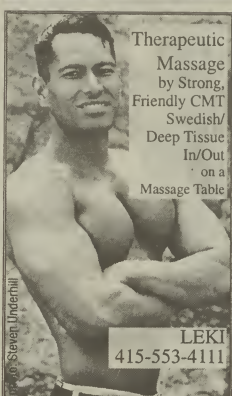
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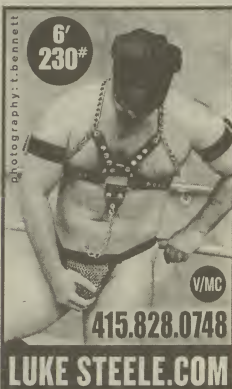
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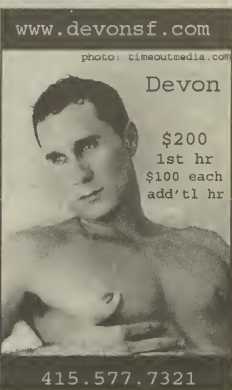
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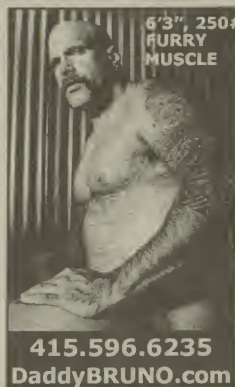
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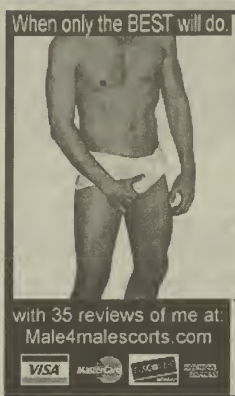
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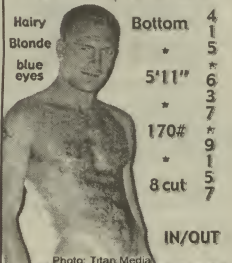
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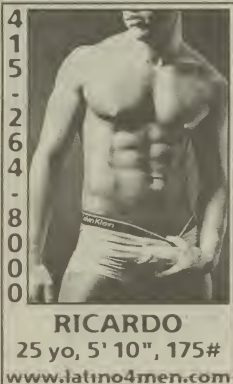
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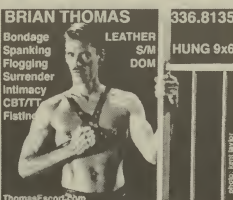
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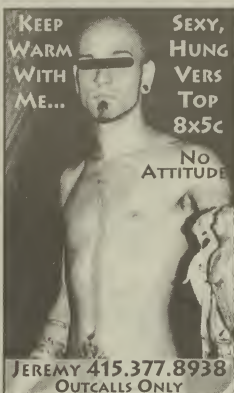
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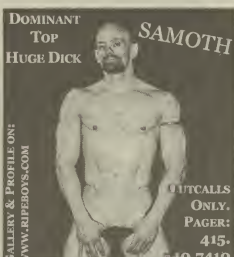
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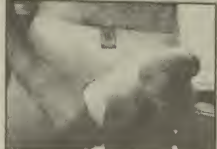
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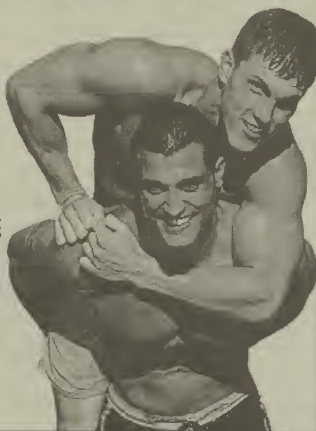
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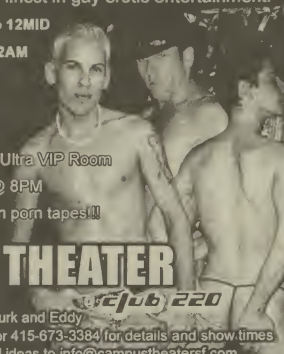
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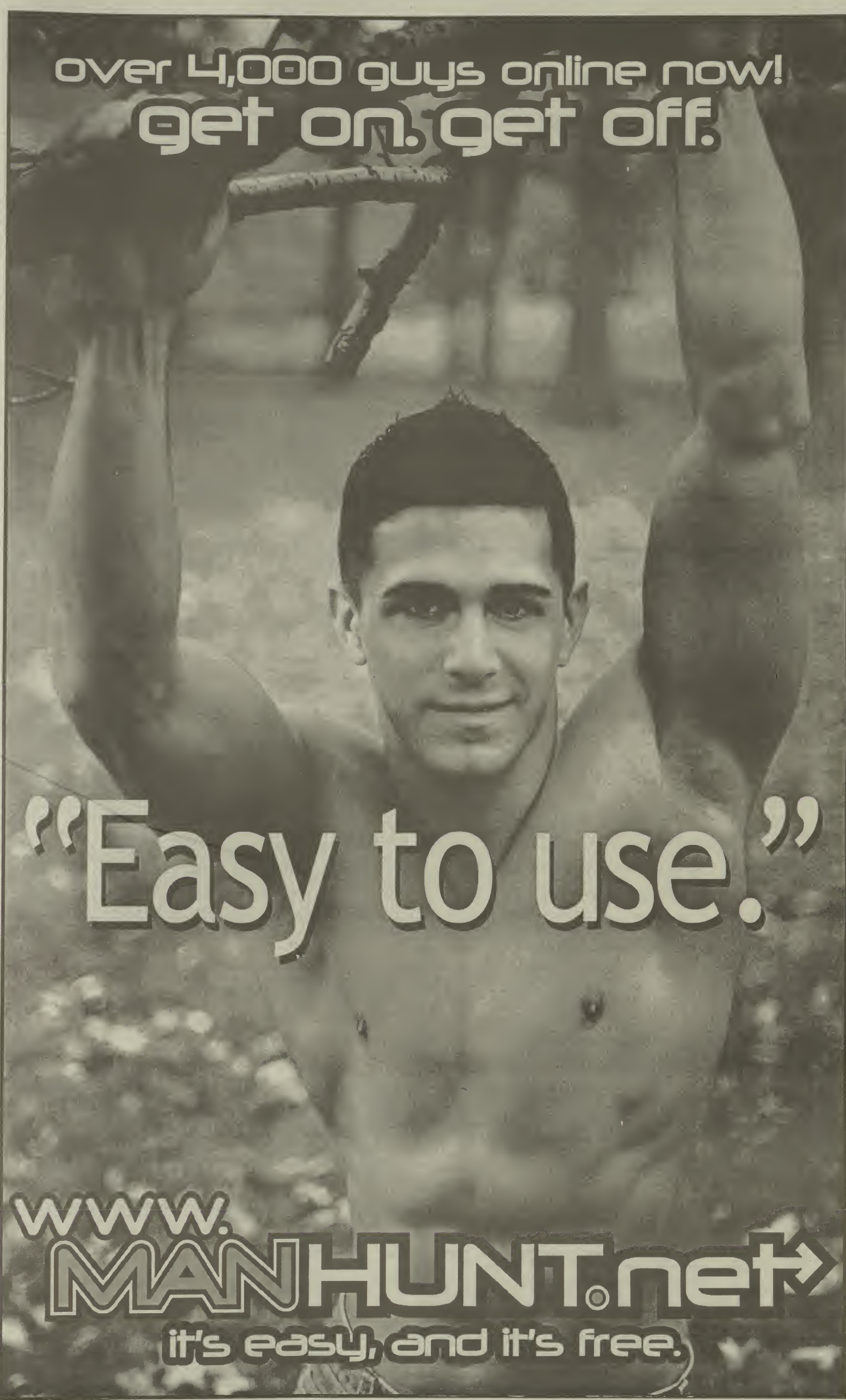
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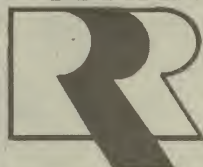
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